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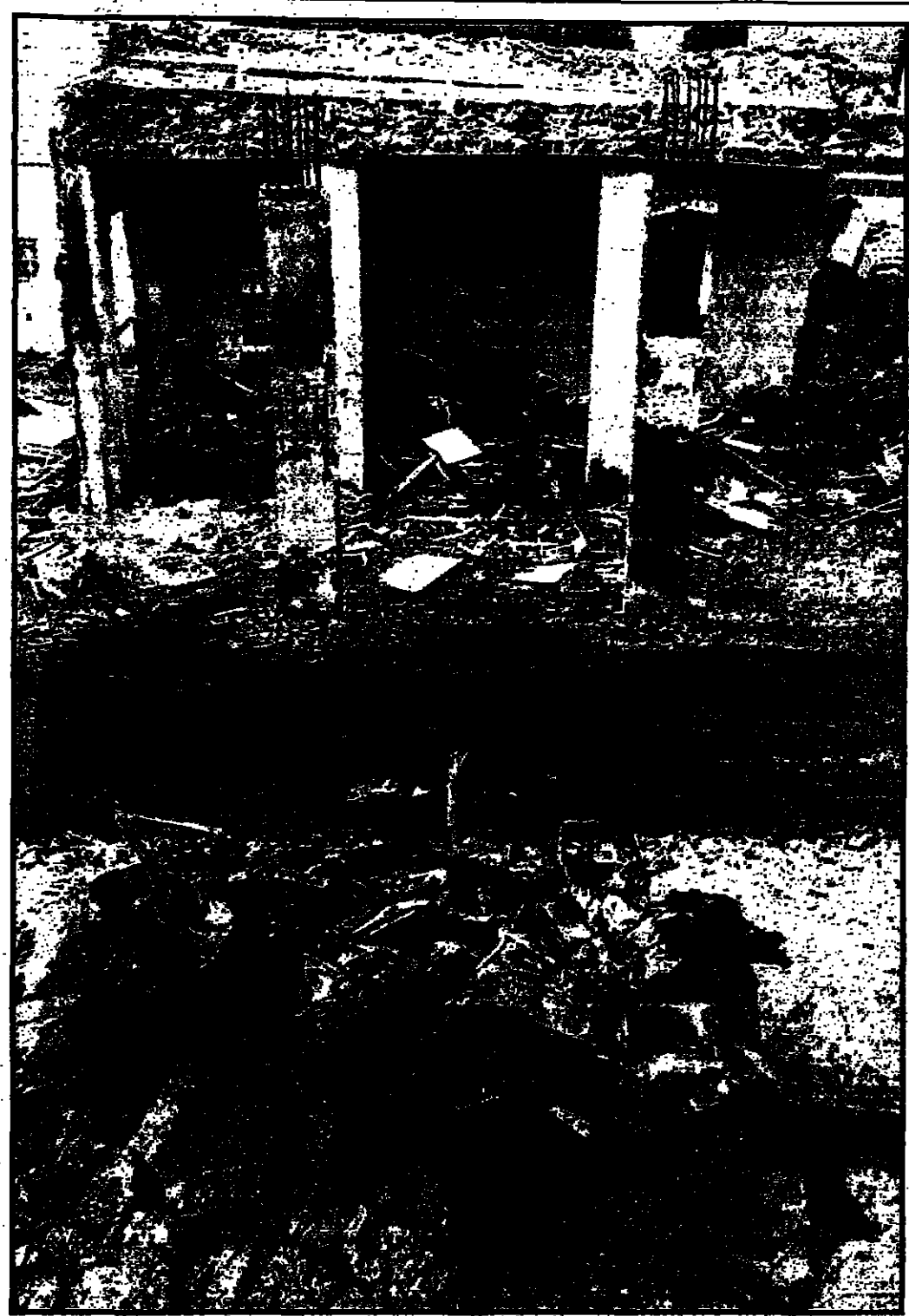


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The twisted wreck of a Hamas car bomb sits yesterday opposite the Ramallah garage where it blew up prematurely Sunday night. (Brian Hendler)

## PA: Hamas man died preparing car bomb

By MARGOT DUKKIEWITZ and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian security officials yesterday refused to divulge the name of the Hamas terrorist killed Sunday night when his booby-trapped car - rigged with 50 kilos of explosives - blew up in the Beitunya industrial area of Ramallah.

The officials said the investigation of the incident was continuing and Palestinian sources reported a number of Hamas activists were arrested yesterday. The officials refused to confirm a Channel 2 report that a gun and a hand grenade had

been found near the wreckage of the car. Israeli security officials said the fact that the vehicle had

**Land Day protests in areas turn violent, Page 2**

Israeli license plates strengthened assumptions that Hamas had intended to use the car in an attack in Israel. They said they believe the Hamas leadership in Jordan had ordered the attack.

The security officials also

expressed concern that the terrorists were working alone or in small numbers, making it difficult to expose their activities.

Gaza Hamas leader Abdul Rantisi said the movement will continue resisting the occupation. Hamas, he said, does not believe in the peace process and will not accept any concessions of Palestinian land.

Rantisi said Khaled Mashal, the Hamas political leader in Jordan, had called on the Palestinian Authority to abandon the peace process and renew its dialogue with Hamas.

See CAR BOMB, Page 11

## Ross returns to US empty-handed

By JAY BUSHNISKY

US envoy Dennis Ross is returning home without an agreement on the percentage of the West Bank's Area C to be evacuated in the next pullback and without a mutually acceptable timetable for the redeployment.

His fourth meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to lay the groundwork for presentation of a comprehensive US plan to break the prolonged deadlock between the sides and ended without any public statement from him or Netanyahu.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who had just returned from a round of high-level talks in the US at the start of which he conferred with Ross in Miami, attended the meeting in Netanyahu's office. But Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who was invited, stayed away. His office said: "Inasmuch as Minister Sharon is not involved in nor a partner to the plan that was presented [to Ross], he did not participate in last night's meeting."

Netanyahu declined to comment on Sharon's absence.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said Ross is expected back in Washington today, when he will report to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton.

Rubin said peace process "is in dire straits."

He added Washington had worked hard to develop negotiating proposals that could be accepted by Israelis and Palestinians, but "in the absence of decisions by those leaders to bridge the gaps themselves, there isn't that much the US can do."

"And one option has always been for us to disengage from this kind of direct, catalytic role. But it's not an option that Secretary [Albright] is advocating or an

option that we would like to see happen at all."

Ross is "finalizing" the US ideas, Rubin said, while refusing to characterize Ross's trip before his return.

The three sessions Ross held since his arrival Friday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat did not produce a formula whereby Israel's insistence on strict implementation of the PA's commitments to maintain security and eliminate terrorism in

and unequivocal abrogation of the Palestinian Covenant.

Although Ross exercised rhetorical restraint while in Jerusalem, Gaza, and Ramallah, refraining from venting his apparent frustration and disappointment, he spoke out during a brief stop in Sharm el-Sheikh, where he conferred with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before returning to Israel for the final meeting with Netanyahu.

"Obviously, the stalemate begins to diminish the hopes that people have for seeing a very different Middle East and for building and achieving peace," Reuters quoted him as saying.

The senior source confirmed that Ross was leaving "without knowing how big a withdrawal would be acceptable to Israel." But he raised the possibility that he may return to the region for another shuttle between Jerusalem, Gaza, and Ramallah.

He contended that Israel and the PA are in the midst of a process - not at its conclusion. "The Americans did not come here with a diktat," he said. "They came to express their views, listen to ours,

and refine their proposals."

Israel evidently offered to carry out the next redeployment over a four-month period, but the Americans and Palestinians prefer that it be completed in three months.

Without going into the percentage of territory to be handed over to the PA, Netanyahu focussed on "the principle of reciprocity," meaning that troop withdrawals would have to coincide with "concrete measures" by the PA to assure security. There also would have to be "verification" that these steps were taken.

The source said the proposed pullback could not be 13 percent, as it is generally believed the as-yet unpublished US plan proposes.

This stand was confirmed by David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's communications director. He said Israel did not make a counteroffer to a 13 percent pullback. He said this idea was "flatly rejected."

But Bar-Ilan maintained that "progress was made." Summing up the meeting's outcome, he said, "We believe there is a much greater understanding of our position on the part of the Americans."

The source said that instead of presenting their plan, Ross and his colleagues "made bridging proposals which merit deliberation. The Americans understand that the issue at hand is much more complicated than it may have seemed from the distance of Washington."

"We did not come up with arbitrary numbers, but based our position on the considerations cited by security experts and not on political symbolism or partisan priorities."

He fended off a remark made by Albright to American Jewish leaders to the effect that the peace process has stagnated since Netanyahu took office.

See ROSS, Page 11

**NRP demands PA fulfill commitments, Page 2**

the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be accommodated.

A senior political source said Arafat "sat and listened, but did not give any specific answers" to questions on the confiscation of illicit weaponry, reduction of the Palestinian Police to the size stipulated in the Oslo Accords, extradition to Israel of 34 Palestinians suspected of terrorism and murder,

## Syrian, Egyptian FM's arrive in Saudi Arabia

DUBAI (Reuters) - The foreign ministers of Egypt and Syria flew to Saudi Arabia yesterday for talks with their Saudi counterpart on Israeli-Arab peace efforts, an Arab diplomat in Riyadh said.

Witnesses said Foreign Minister Amr Moussa of Egypt and Syria's Farouk Shara left the airport without talking to journalists.

One diplomat said the two were due to hold talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Faisal and might meet King Fahd. They were to discuss the "dangerous deterioration in the peace process as a result of the Israeli government's refusal to implement its commitments," the official said.

Egyptian television earlier said Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia would hold a high-level meeting to discuss the US role in Middle East peacemaking and the latest American initiative to revive it.

It quoted informed sources as saying the meeting would take place in an Arab city soon but gave no further details.

## Arafat to tour Anne Frank House today

By ELLI WOHLGELER and news agencies

Following the recent fiasco involving Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's non-visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the Palestinian leader has decided to visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam today, aides said yesterday.

Museum spokeswoman Teresien da Silva confirmed the visit would take place, but declined to give any details.

Yusef Habbab, the Palestinian representative in the Netherlands, said Arafat was invited to visit the museum by Amsterdam Mayor Scheltje Pajijn.

"Mr. Arafat is a human being," said Habbab. "He accepts everybody. We share everybody's suffering."

In January, the State Department wanted to

invite Arafat to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, but the museum's director at first refused. Following stinging criticism, he reversed his decision, but Arafat's schedule at that point prevented him from touring the site.

Miles Lehrman, chairman of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, said last night that the Anne Frank House "is a very important place for people to see. There is no comparison to what one can learn when one visits Yad Vashem, or the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, because it's so massive, and it's such a variety of things."

He said the executive committee of the US museum voted unanimously to extend an invitation to Arafat to visit the museum on his next trip to Washington.

Dr. Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, said that if

Arafat's visit "is merely an attempt to gain points in Western political opinion, then it is totally superfluous. If Arafat comes out of the Anne Frank House and gives explicit orders to his media never to engage in Holocaust denial, for example, or to use Nazi-like caricatures in portraying Israeli leaders, then the visit will have contributed to improving relations between Arabs and Jews."

He said there is "a tendency in certain Arab circles that thinks that visits to Holocaust museums outside Yad Vashem are equivalent to that visit. But we all know that that is not truly the case - ultimately, the visit to Yad Vashem will be the proof that the long-awaited peace between Palestinians and Israelis is on its way."

See ARAFAT, Page 11

## Oldest-ever US immigrant, 102, arrives

By JUDY SEGEL

It's never too late to make aliya, even - or especially - when the immigrant has a long life of Zionist service behind her.

My great-aunt, Belle Goldstein, 102 years young, finally moved to Israel last night, becoming the oldest immigrant to arrive from North America since the founding of the state.

Sound of mind and in good health, Great-Aunt Belle was greeted by relatives and Jewish Agency and Absorption Ministry officials with her immigrant certificate in a ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Born in New York City 20 months before the First Zionist Congress in Basel launched the movement for political Zionism, Belle attended most of the Zionist Congresses since, including the pre-Holocaust 21st congress, in 1939, and the post-Holocaust 22nd, in December 1946, when American delegates were shocked by the decimated ranks of the European delegates.

For most of her life, she was active in American Mizrahi Women, serving as its president from 1942-1947. Mizrahi - now Amit Women - gave her a big sendoff in New York last Thursday. Since her first visit here in 1946, she has made more than 40 trips to this country, to see the state being built and to visit her older daughter, Raisel Rauchwerger, who came on aliya from Brooklyn that year with her husband Leon.

Raisel, 74, a retired English teacher in Ramat Gan, lived for years in Kfar Barya, named for Zionist pioneer Bessie Gotsfeld,



Belle Goldstein (Reproduction by Ron Ossendryns/Israel Sun)

Belle's sister-on-law.

"She was always travelling around the country and various parts of the world for her Zionist activity," said Raisel.

She and her older brother Eleazar (who lives in New York) and younger sister Leona Malka - who

has now returned to Israel after a nine-year stay in New York - missed her during these absences. Their father, Samuel Goldstein, was also busy, as Brooklyn's assistant district attorney.

Belle has even deeper roots in the land than Ramat Gan, or Kfar Gideon near Afula, where the widowed Leona has a house.

Daughter of Leopold (Levi) Horowitz, one of four brothers and a sister who founded the Horowitz-Margaret matza bakery on New York's Lower East Side in 1884, she is a descendant of famed Rabbi Isaiah Horowitz, the 16th-century *Shelah Hakadosh*, who is buried in Tiberias right next to Maimonides. So why close down an apartment where she lived for 30 years, give cherished silver pieces away to relatives and friends, and move from her birthplace to her homeland at age 102?

"It was time," says Raisel. "When something has to be done, she accepts it."

## Zvilli to stop supporting anti-missionary bill

By HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies

In return for an undertaking by a number of Protestant groups not to engage in active proselytizing, MK Nissim Zvilli (Labor) is to withdraw his sponsorship of an anti-missionary bill that has already been introduced in the Knesset.

The bill, cosponsored by Zvilli and MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism), proposes a one-year prison sentence for "unlawfully holding, printing, copying, spreading, distributing, or importing material which has an element of proselytizing." It has been widely attacked by American Christian fundamentalist groups that are friendly to Israel and by civil rights advocates here. The bill has been opposed by the government.

In a statement due to be released tomorrow night, the groups - which represent a broad spectrum

of evangelical Christians, including messianic Jews - appear to go farther than ever before in rejecting proselytizing, both on theological and historic grounds.

"We believe that the covenant which God concluded with the people of Israel was never revoked. We deeply respect the Jewish people in their identity and integrity and will therefore not engage in activities which have as their intention to alienate them from their tradition and community," the statement says.

The Christian groups also make an oblique reference to the Holocaust. Some Jewish spokesmen have argued that, because of the decimation in the ranks of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, Christians should undertake not to reduce the number of Jews further by promoting conversion.

See MISSIONARY, Page 11

## Hapoalim posts record profit

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank Hapoalim yesterday reported the highest annual net profit ever by a local company. The bank earned \$296 million last year, a 20.6 percent increase over 1996.

The country's largest financial institution said that the increase is due to a rise in financing profit, a decrease in provisions for doubtful debts, and an increase in operating income.

Meanwhile, the Israel Electric Corporation failed to publish its results yesterday as scheduled. The Government Companies Authority representative refused to sign a section of the annual report which deals with share dividends.

Full story, Page 13.



## NEWS

in brief

### Czech ambassador visits Hebron

The Czech Republic's embassy in Tel Aviv confirmed yesterday that Ambassador Yezzi Schneider visited Hebron's Jewish community last Thursday, escorted by Yehudit Tayar of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. An embassy official said the envoy traveled to Hebron "as a member of an organized tour."

This was the second diplomatic visit to an Israeli settlement beyond the Green Line last week. Belarus Ambassador Genads Lavitski toured Ma'aleh Adumim on Sunday.

The Hebron Press Office said Schneider went to the city's various Jewish neighborhoods and participated in a luncheon hosted by Hebron's Jewish community.

Jay Bushinsky

### Shahak travels to New York, Washington

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak flew to the United States last night to meet with top US brass, and attend a fund-raising event for IDF soldiers. Shahak also will visit the Boeing plant in St. Louis where the state-of-the-art F-15I fighter jets are manufactured. While in Washington, Shahak will be the guest of US Armed Forces Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. It will be their first meeting since Shelton was appointed last year.

Before traveling to the US capital, Shahak will be a guest of honor at a gala event of the IDF Soldiers' Welfare Association's fiftieth anniversary celebration in New York City. *Avish O'Sullivan*

### Appeal denied for man who gave girlfriend AIDS

The Supreme Court yesterday turned down the appeal of a man who had infected his 16-year-old girlfriend with AIDS. The man, a resident of Ashkelon, was sentenced by Beersheba District Court to 30 months' imprisonment and fined NIS 85,000. His lawyer said in his defense that he had been advised by his doctor not to tell anyone he was an HIV carrier. He said his client had used a condom during intercourse and that tests had shown he was free of the virus after receiving treatment. *Itim*

### Israel, Jordan hold anti-pollution exercise

Israel and Jordan held a joint exercise in Jordanian waters yesterday. The exercise, the first of its type, was to combat a simulated pollution incident in the Red Sea. Environment Minister Raphael Eitan, who visited a Jordanian ship, said more exercises will take place in the coming years. Eitan said the joint exercise was of major importance the mutual interests of both countries to keep the sensitive Gulf of Eilat pollution free. Twelve Jordanian and Israeli vessels of different sizes took part. *Liat Collins*

### Defense resumes summation in Papon trial

Three days after burying his wife, Maurice Papon returned to court yesterday with a relapse of the bronchial infection that caused several delays in his war crimes trial. His lawyer, Jean-Marc Varaut, said Varaut, who resumed his summation, said the defendant would be hospitalized for tests at a cardiac facility outside Bordeaux when the jury begins its deliberations tomorrow.

Papon, 87, is the most senior official of the pro-Nazi Vichy regime to be tried for complicity in crimes against humanity. He is charged with signing the orders that led to the arrest and deportation of 1,690 Jews from Bordeaux between 1942 and 1944. *AP*

# Land Day protests in territories turn violent; Israeli rallies peaceful

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and DAVID RUDGE

Palestinians clashed with IDF troops throughout the West Bank as Land Day protesters braved the cold, rainy weather and marched in Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Bethlehem, Kalkilya, and Ramallah.

Palestinian security forces beefed up their presence in most areas where rallies took place.

According to Palestinian sources, however, 17 Palestinians — three in Ramallah, eight in Jenin, and six in Bethlehem, including the deputy chief of the Preventive Security Service there — were wounded by rubber bullets fired by IDF troops to disperse stone-throwers.

A few hundred Palestinians also protested at the Netzarim junction in Gaza.

Rallies inside the Green Line

passed peacefully. The general strike called by the Israeli Arab leadership was well observed. Schools, kindergartens, and local council offices in Arab towns and villages throughout the country were closed, as well as most shops, offices, and other businesses.

At noon yesterday the majority of storeowners in the territories shut their stores, obeying an order issued by the PA calling for a commercial strike.

Shortly after 1:30, some 50 Palestinians gathered in Ramallah's Al-Manara Square, as protest songs blared out from loudspeakers erected by the local Fatah headquarters. As marchers, led by Fatah leader and Palestinian Legislative Council member Marwan Barghouti, slowly walked through the main streets, some passersby refused to join them, but others preferred to seek shelter from the rain.

Some of the stores remained open for business and appeared to be doing a brisk trade.

Barghouti said the march aimed to stress the importance and sacredness the land had to the Palestinian people.

Just outside the city, scores of youths hurled stones at border policemen standing in groups a few hundred meters past the Palestinian Police roadblock. Other youths hurled rocks and tires into the middle of the road.

Hundreds attended the Jenin rally, that was led by the Jenin Governor Dr. Zuheir Manassra.

Thousands took part in a rally in Nablus, and in Hebron, hundreds marched through the city's streets and attended a rally held at the local university, where some of the protesters burned Israeli flags.

In Bethlehem, hundreds of high school and university students marched towards Rachel's Tomb

calling "death to America" and for a halt to settlement activity.

As they neared the tomb where IDF troops and Border Police were grouped, demonstrators pelted the troops with rocks and stones. The troops responded with rubber bullets.

Earlier in the day Palestinian youths stoned Israeli vehicles and IDF troops near the Jelazzum refugee camp and the entrance to Psagot. Soldiers dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Some 200 Arab students demonstrated at the Hebrew University's campus in Jerusalem yesterday holding banners in Arabic and English reading "Jerusalem for the Arabs, the capital of Palestine."

In Israel proper, thousands of people attended the central rally on the grounds of the regional high school in Arraba village in the Galilee. The demonstrators held aloft

Palestinian flags and many black flags were also in evidence as a symbol of mourning for the six Israeli Arabs who died during clashes with police in the first Land Day demonstrations in the same area in 1976.

Organizers said attendance at the rally was the highest in many years, despite the apparent absence of the Islamic Movement and the heavy rain.

A rally was also held at Wadi Na'am in the Negev which was attended by several hundred Beduin from the region, as well as leaders of the Islamic Movement and Arab MKs.

Organizers blamed the bad weather, and especially the fierce winds for the smaller-than-expected attendance.

Marches and smaller rallies were also held in Kafr Kana, near Nazareth, and Majd el-Kurum, near Karmiel. All of the events passed peacefully.



Thousands of Israeli Arabs carrying Palestinian flags march yesterday from Sakhnin to Arraba in the Galilee to mark Land Day. Marchers chanted 'Long live Palestine' and 'East Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine.'

## Israeli Arabs: Celebrating 'catastrophe' doesn't conflict with jubilee

By DAVID RUDGE

Israeli Arab leaders stressed yesterday that the decision to commemorate "Al-Nakba" (the catastrophe that befell Palestinian Arabs in 1948) does not constitute a call on the Arab community to boycott celebrations marking the state's jubilee next month.

"We have not taken any decision to boycott the jubilee or try to prevent anybody from taking part in the festivities. On the contrary, everybody is free to do as they wish," said Abed Inbitawi, spokesman for the Israeli Arab leadership's monitoring committee.

"We want, however, to mark the 50th anniversary of Al-Nakba during this period of the celebrations, to encourage Israel to truly fulfill its independence in two central aspects: denying the Palestinian people the right to self-determination, and by implementing policies that assure full equality for all citizens, Arabs and Jews alike."

While the Palestinian people lacked the right to self-determination and Israeli Arabs still suffer discrimination, the celebrations to mark the jubilee could never be fully complete, he maintained.

"We are calling for solidarity visits to settlements that were abandoned in 1948 and especially those, such as Biram, Irit and Ghabasiya village near Nahariya, which are subject to High Court rulings that the former residents should be allowed to return."

"We are also planning to stage a mass demonstration on May 15, although the details have yet to be arranged," said Inbitawi.

"We don't see any conflict between the jubilee celebrations and us marking the tragedy that befell the Palestinian people. Historically and culturally we are part of the Palestinian people, but we are also citizens of the state and an integral part of Israeli society."

"As such we have a greater interest than anyone in the Middle East in wanting to see the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace," he added.

## Rain fails to dampen Land Day spirit

By DAVID RUDGE

Heavy rain dampened Land Day yesterday, but not the spirit of the occasion, according to Galilee residents.

"We had planned for it to be a quiet Land Day, but we had not planned for the rain," said Mohammed Baraki, secretary-general of Hadash.

Baraki and a small crowd gathered outside the closed municipality offices in Shfaram yesterday morning, waiting for the rain to ease before staging a march through the town.

All shops, offices, businesses, schools, and kindergartens in the town were closed in accordance with the general strike called by the Israeli Arab leadership's monitoring committee.

Baraki stressed that Land Day was also an opportunity for the country's nearly one million Arabs to demonstrate against discrimination and the expropriation of Arab-owned land.

"Under the present government there is a marked move backward in everything connected to promoting equality, in the fields of

land, education, municipal affairs, welfare, and health care — even though the previous government did not do enough," he said.

Samaher Najjar was born a year before the first Land Day demonstration in 1976, which was called to protest the expropriation of Arab-owned land. Violence erupted in the Sakhnin area and six Israeli Arabs were killed and dozens of other people including police and border police were hurt.

"We, the young people in the Arab sector, have always participated in Land Day, and we always talked about what happened on the day and about those who died," said Najjar, head of the Arab Students Union at Haifa University.

"For us it is not just about the day itself, but also about the policies of deprivation and discrimination by government after government towards the minority Palestinian community in the State," she said. "For instance, Arabic is officially the second language in Israel. But in studies, we have to submit all our work in Hebrew."

Another student waiting in the crowd in Shfaram said she would prefer to speak in

Arabic, apparently to underline the lack of recognition for the language outside the confines of the Arab community.

As the rain eased, demonstrators holding aloft placards paraded through the main street. Similar marches and rallies were held in towns and villages throughout the country.

Inside, Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, head of the Arab leadership's monitoring committee and mayor of Shfaram, waited by the telephone to receive updates on the various Land Day events taking place throughout the country.

"From what we have heard so far, the strike has been well supported and virtually all places of business are closed and there have been no reports of any disturbances," said Nimr Hussein. "This year there is a big problem because of the plans to transfer state land to the Jewish Agency, which will prevent Arabs from being able to purchase or lease land, especially in the Negev."

Police were in evidence, especially around Sakhnin and Arraba where the central Land Day rally was held. For the most part, however, they remained in the background and Land Day passed quietly.

## High Court rejects torture petition

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday ruled that security prisoner Ahmed Bilbul had neither been tortured nor secretly hospitalized.

It thus rejected a petition from the Committee against Torture in Israel asking for an inquiry into his alleged torture during interrogation by the General Security Service at Jerusalem's Russian Compound lock-up.

Bilbul, 38, has been held for the past month, the state said. So far he has admitted to meeting abroad with senior representatives of Islamic Jihad.

He has also admitted to possessing weapons.

In its petition, the committee charged that physical pressure had been brought to bear on Bilbul, including shaking, beating, and choking him. This, the committee said in its petition, had led to the need to hospitalize him.

But Shai Nitzan of the State Attorney's Office said that "the petitioner had not been shaken, had not been beaten, had not been choked, and no other physical measures to pressure him had been used... either before the [previous] hearings or after them."

## NRP demands PA fulfill commitments

By LIAT COLLINS

National Religious Party MKs called for the government to abide by the principle of reciprocity with regard to the further redeployment, but did not issue an ultimatum during an emergency faction meeting on the issue yesterday.

However, NRP MKs Hanan Porat and Zvi Hendel later met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and told him that a redeployment of the scope now being discussed would make them

take action to topple the government.

Following the faction meeting, the NRP issued a statement saying it "is sticking to the government decision determining that the implementation of the further diplomatic stages will be built on the principle of reciprocity and conditional on the Palestinians fulfilling their commitments."

The NRP also called on the government "to be faithful to the national interests they have decided on so far." The party is demanding the

government proceed directly to the final status stage.

Party sources say the general feeling is that those MKs who want to take a more extreme stand — such as Hendel, Porat and Nissan Slomiansky — can do so through the Land of Israel Front.

NRP leader and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy apparently told the faction that abiding by the principle of reciprocity without

abolishing the further redeployment would mean the continuation of the policy of the Peres government of unilateral concessions.

However, he also noted that if the party makes an ultimatum at this stage it could have political results such as the creation of a national unity government or a counter-ultimatum in favor of the redeployment by other coalition parties.

## Terrorist gets 4 years for bomb plot

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Lod Military Court yesterday sentenced a Hamas terrorist to four years in prison for planning to set off a bomb in the Jerusalem Mall and kidnap Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Mohammed Khalil Hamada, 20, of Jerusalem, was part of a four-member cell that allegedly planned to abduct soldiers, judges and former ministers, to be used as bargaining chips in their demands to release Hamas prisoners.

Hamada's cell is also responsible for a bombing in Tel Aviv's old central bus station last year that wounded 14 people.

According to court documents, Hamada had been assigned to locate Olmert's residence so the

cell could kidnap him.

He and two other members of the cell also went to the Jerusalem Mall to determine the best place to carry out an attack. They monitored the security there as well as prospective escape routes.

The cell planned to plant the bomb near the cinema complex, where the concentration of people was densest, court documents said.

In his ruling, Lod Military Court president Col. Doron Pallis said that even though the crimes Hamada was being punished for were serious, he had only been involved in information gathering.

According to Itim, the relatively light four-year sentence was part of a plea bargain.

## Women in the War for Independence

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## Yishai to Pollard: We made a mistake

By HILIEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai told Jonathan Pollard yesterday that Israel made a mistake by not recognizing him as an Israeli spy, which sent a mixed message to the US about its responsibility for him.

Pollard again asked that Israel declare he worked for it and set a target date for attaining his release.

The meeting at the Federal Correctional Institution in Bunker North Carolina, was the fourth Pollard has held in recent months with a cabinet minister under a new policy of providing official visitors, and the second in the past week.

As he did when he met last Monday with Finance Minister Yankov Neeman, Pollard compared

his plight with that of Michael Schwartz, the non-Jewish naval officer who was sentenced last year to two years imprisonment for spying on behalf of Saudi Arabia, while Pollard received a life sentence. Yesterday he also mentioned Peter Lee, a scientist sentenced to a year for passing information to China.

Pollard asked Yishai to enlist the support of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef in the effort to gain his release. Yishai brought Pollard a Haggada in which Yosef wrote, "The spring brought with it the news of redemption."

Pollard slammed past Israeli committees for abandoning him, and expressed hope that this time the commission headed by cabinet secretary Dan Navon has the potential to help free him and bring him to Israel.

## 'Analyzer' to be drafted soon

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Ehud Tannenbaum, 18, known as "Analyzer," who allegedly hacked into the Pentagon's computers, is to be drafted soon.

The army confirmed yesterday that Tannenbaum would begin doing his compulsory three-year service shortly.

The IDF did not say to which branch of the service he would be assigned.

But his mother, Molly, said that her son would be sent to a combat unit.

"He's a real patriot and loves the state and wants to serve it," she said. "He wants to be in Golan or the paratroopers."

His parents also felt he could well serve the IDF in computers, but said it was up to the army to assign their son as it sees fit.

Molly said she heard her son was able to infiltrate Iranian and Hizbullah computer systems, but did not know if that was true.

She said that Ehud, who is under house arrest in Hod Hasharon, would be joining the army in the next few weeks. She did not believe that possible legal action against him would interfere with this draft.

Tannenbaum was arrested on March 18 on suspicion of hacking several computer systems here and in the US, including the Pentagon system. His arrest followed pressure from the FBI to catch the culprit and question him on his methods.

"The Americans should be thanking my son, not persecuting him. Just imagine if it was the KGB who broke into the Pentagon," his mother said.

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARON

### Albright's call

The press has been busily analyzing US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's statements to Jewish leaders last weekend, when she conveyed her disappointment in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government's policy towards the peace process and her concern over the deteriorating relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

According to *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev, Albright's words "emphasize the severe crisis of trust existing between Netanyahu and the US administration and the critical condition of the peace process." He added that Netanyahu is considered to be the Indiana Jones of Israeli politicians, meaning that, if he wants to, Netanyahu is capable of overcoming any coalition crisis.

"Netanyahu may find himself missing the times when there were no expectations of him and therefore, no disappointments, either," he concluded.

*Ha'aretz's* editorial stated that Albright's decision to convey her disappointment "leads Israel's relations with the US to a difficult low point." Albright's warning that the US could withdraw its involvement from the peace process could mean that the delicate relations between Israel and the Palestinians will eventually deteriorate into violence, the editorial added.

In *Yedioth Aharanot*, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich claimed that Albright's statements and severe tone will reverberate throughout the region and the international arena.

"Whoever listens carefully, will be affected by the secretary of state's arguments, but whoever thinks and acts in the short term, might be relieved by the statement that no direct pressure is expected soon," he wrote.

"The US will not inflict sanctions on Israel if it rejects the American plan, but the attempt to stick a wedge between Israel and the American Jews hurts more than economic sanctions," Moshe Zak wrote in *Ma'ariv*.

### Arab protests

The press commented yesterday on the riots of the Arab predicament, as Israeli Arabs held demonstrations to mark the 22nd anniversary of Land Day.

Amos Guboa stated in *Ma'ariv* that all the modernization and resources that might be invested in the Arab sector will not resolve the problem that Arabs have not been returned.

"Here lies the real problem of the state of Israel; it exists and will not be solved by giving one more or one less percent of the territories in the framework of the second redeployment," Gilboa wrote.

Yossi Algazi stated in *Ha'aretz* that Land Day continues to be a nuisance for the IDF because it mistakenly revolves around the issues of law and order, threat and deterrence.

"The Arab protests against inequality and injustice are barely presented," Algazi claimed.

"There is no justification for harming the relations between Jews and Arabs on Land Day," according to *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid, adding that the condition of the Arab minority is improving and the municipal and educational gaps are being reduced. "The heads of the Arab population should know that by worsening the relations... they are damaging the process of their full integration into the state's daily life."

### Pollard pilgrimage

Writing in *Yedioth*, Eitan Haber criticized the latest trend among the ministers of flying to the US in order to meet with imprisoned spy Jonathan Pollard. Haber claimed these highly publicized visits are not only ineffective but are damaging Pollard's prospects of receiving a pardon.

"What good will the photos with Pollard do for his release?" he asked. "They will stick him in prison for more years, but on the other hand, they will benefit the popularity of a few ministers in Israel whose concern for Pollard may be authentic, but their concern for themselves and their election is much more significant."

The visits only will annoy the decisionmakers in Washington, he added.

### Rita

The controversy of Rita's role in the jubilee celebrations highlighted the materialistic philosophy by which we all live, Matti Golan claimed in *Yedioth*. Over the weekend, the popular singer retracted her decision to withdraw from singing the national anthem at the main Independence Day performance.

She had said that she could not sing with love after being criticized by the public for the high fee that she would receive for the performance. "Money equals love, love equals money. This is a social value equation that guides all our lives and actions, including those of Rita," Golan wrote.

## Iranian foreign minister:

# Hizbullah's goal met if IDF withdraws

BEIRUT (Reuters) — Iran said yesterday that Hizbullah would have achieved its goals if Israel withdrew its troops from the security zone in southern Lebanon.

"I think when Israel withdraws from south Lebanon, the aims of the resistance would have been achieved in reality," Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told reporters after meeting his Lebanese counterpart Faris Bouez in Beirut.

Hizbullah has refused to say if it would accept Israel's offer to withdraw from the security zone under UN Security Council Resolution 425, on condition the Lebanese Army would prevent attacks after a withdrawal.

Kharrazi declined to respond to a question on whether Iran would stop supporting Hizbullah in the event of an Israeli withdrawal.

Kharrazi arrived in Beirut yesterday from Damascus, where he called Israel's withdrawal proposal a trick and said it would be foiled.

"Israel is obliged to withdraw without any conditions," Kharrazi said after his talks with Bouez.

Lebanon and Syria have rejected the Israeli offer, saying Resolution 425 is

unconditional and leaves no room for negotiations.

Kharrazi also said yesterday US hostility to his country had not changed and dismissed reports Washington had proposed basing a US diplomat in Teheran. Kharrazi replied "no" when asked by a reporter if a Teheran newspaper report about a US proposal to base an American at the Swiss Embassy in Teheran was correct.

"There have been no changes in the aggressive American policy against Iran," Kharrazi said through an Arabic translator.

"There have been some changes but there was no change in the core of the American policy and as the policies did not change there is no place for normalization," he added.

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Ataollah Mohajerani was quoted by the daily *Khabar* newspaper on Sunday as saying the Iranian government had received a written proposal that a US official be based at the Swiss embassy in Teheran.

The embassy of Switzerland handles all US diplomatic correspondence with Iran.



Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi (left) and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez exit Bouez's office in Beirut after their meeting yesterday. (Reuters)



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## NEWS

in brief

## Blind woman's suspected rapist freed on bail

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Avraham Baizer yesterday freed rape suspect Alon Korta on NIS 75,000 bail and ordered him confined at home until his trial, March 25, of Tel Aviv, was charged with two counts of raping a blind woman; he pleaded innocent, but admitted stealing her watch. "It's hard to say we're talking about rape," said the judge, "since the sexual act at first began with the consent of both parties and even in the plaintiff's version it was only during the course of sexual contact that she asked him to stop."

The judge concluded there was thus no prima facie evidence in the first count, but accepted the woman's testimony regarding the second alleged rape. *Itm*

## Rafik Halaby indicted on tax charges

The non-profit association that runs the Hapoel Daliat al-Carmel soccer team, Channel 1 news director Rafik Halaby, and Rasseim Nadur, of Daliat al-Carmel, were indicted on tax charges in Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday.

According to the indictment, Halaby and Nadur, who were active directors of the association, failed to file returns on time for December 1992 and June-September 1993 and failed to pay NIS 121,707 in taxes withheld from employees and subcontractors.

Their trial has been set for April 19. *Itm*

## Yahalom demands PA return equipment

Following the arrest of a Transport Ministry survey team in eastern Jerusalem by the Palestinian Police, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom called upon Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to effect the return of the team's equipment.

According to the Transport Ministry, the team, made up of Bethlehem residents, had been conducting a study on transport needs in eastern Jerusalem last Tuesday, when the Palestinian Police apprehended them and took them to Ramallah for questioning. Their equipment, including a rental car, cellular phones, recording equipment and tapes which the ministry said were of important research value, was confiscated.

Yahalom said Sunday that the arrest took place on Israeli territory, totally disregarding the prohibition on the PA to work inside Israel. *Haim Shapiro*

## West Bank Christians allowed to travel on Easter

Almost all Christians from the West Bank will be able to enter Israel throughout the Easter period by presenting their identity cards alone. The exception is those between 16 and 25 years old, who must acquire a permit from the Civil Administration.

In addition, the Civil Administration is also to grant permits to Palestinian Christians to remain in Israel with their families for up to a week during the festive season. This year, the period of Easter is from April 5, when the Catholics and Protestants celebrate Palm Sunday, through April 19, which the Orthodox communities mark Easter. *Haim Shapiro*

## Drivers can turn off lights on intercity roads

Today is the last day this season that drivers will be required to turn on their headlights while driving on intercity roads. Motorcyclists, however, are still required to use the headlight during the day on intercity roads.

According to the Transport Ministry, some 90 percent of drivers complied with the regulation, which was in effect throughout the winter. *Itm*

## Labor recycles Zandberg's national service bill

By LIAT COLLINS

A week after a bill by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg calling for national military or public service for all was defeated by a huge Knesset majority, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak has asked party MKs to draw up similar legislation.

Unlike Zandberg's bill, which included both Arabs and haredim, Labor's bill is to aim only at haredi yeshiva students. The bill has met with predictable opposition from haredi MKs, although they say there is only an outside chance of it passing into law.

Barak reportedly still supports the idea of mandatory national service in a civilian framework for Arab citizens, but believes the idea can only be carried out at the same time other measures are taken to improve quality of life in the Arab sector.

MK Uzi Baram (Labor) told Israel Radio yesterday that the underlying premise of the proposal is that no other issue plays such a large role in the growing gap between secular and religious as the haredim's large-scale exemptions from military service. He noted the exemptions in the early days of the state were meant for only a small number of yeshiva students, but the numbers have grown.

"By the year 2000 and on, there are those who think that more than 40 percent of the population will not do national service," Baram said. The bill being drawn up focuses largely on mandatory national service as an alternative for military service, he said, with a limited number of exemptions for yeshiva students.

Baram said he does not believe the plan will boomerang during the next elections, because the haredim themselves are considering ways for more of them to do national service.

He said Labor's bill would differ from Zandberg's because it would not affect the Arab population. He also criticized a clause, which Zandberg dropped before the vote, which would have denied the vote to those who of their own free will do not perform national service.

He rejected the possibility that Labor had purposely refused to support Zandberg's bill so it could get full credit for its own similar proposal.

MK Yossi Beilin, who has raised the idea in the past and is working on the bill, said 7.5% of all those eligible for military service every year are exempted for yeshiva study.

He said the yeshiva establishment had come to rely on the fact that its students register as a

way of avoiding the draft. Beilin said he wants to avoid a situation in which thousands fraudulently ask for permits as yeshiva students as the only means of not doing military service.

MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) said the figures of those who do not serve are much lower than generally believed. He said that since the creation of the state 60,000 people had received deferments on these grounds, currently there are 29,000 between the ages of 17 and 50 who have deferments and a large and growing number eventually do some form of national service and reserve duty.

He said the argument of the contribution of yeshiva students is an ancient one and is even mentioned in the Gemara. Gafni said part of the present problem stems from the completely different perspectives of the secular and religious world; namely that the haredim think that studying Torah keeps the Jewish people alive and is at least as important as the contribution of non-combatant soldiers serving in offices.

In response to the Labor initiative, Tsomet issued a statement saying: "Labor's proposal to recycle Tsomet's bill for compulsory conscription, four days after it made it fail in the Knesset, is hypocritical and a scornful attempt to gain ratings."

## Peace and Security Council: Draft haredim

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Peace and Security Council is calling on the government to act to draft haredim.

"More than 28,000 yeshiva students of enlistment age take no part in the national effort and do not serve in the army. This is a socially disastrous situation which arouses deep resentment among those who do serve, and damages the unity of Israeli society," the council, comprising some 1,000 reserve generals, senior officers, professors, and senior businesspeople, announced at its meeting on Sunday.

The council warned the present situation, which discriminates against the secular public, cannot continue for long and demanded equality in bearing the national burden.

Maj.-Gen. (res.) Ran Goren, a former OC Manpower, said the arrangement exempting yeshiva students and others constitutes "blatant discrimination. It is not based on military criteria and in fact anyone who wants to join this class can do so."

Rabbi Mordechai Neugerschal, the council's guest speaker, surprised his audience when he announced he is in favor of separating state from religion and of equality in bearing the national burden.

But he was heckled and interrupted when he urged the secular community to accept the haredi assertion that Torah study is as important as military service.

"Can you forbid me to believe studying Torah is a weapon?" Neugerschal asked.

"Can you forbid us to despise you?" responded people in the audience, and were hushed by council chairman Shlomo Lahat.

"You cannot enlist a whole group against its will. Neither the High Court of Justice nor military law will do any good, the issues have to be worked out at the deepest, philosophical level," Neugerschal said.

He called for mutual respect and communication between the leaders of the secular and religious communities to find a solution.

Council members pointed out that it is the haredi community which regards the secular public with contempt and warned the present situation is close to explosion.



Susskin appeals

Tatianna Susskin sits in the Supreme Court yesterday, where she appealed her two-year sentence for stonethrowing and incitement. Susskin, who drew a poster of Mohammed as a pig trampling the Koran, told the court she stoned a Palestinian driver in self-defense as he tried to run her over. The court will hand down its decision at a later date. *(Flash 90)*



Evidence released

Zvi Ben-Ari sits in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. The court permitted the police to examine documents found in the office of Ben-Ari's former attorney, Shmuel Kimhi, who is suspected of involvement in some of the 13 fraud crimes Ben-Ari has been convicted of. Both Ben-Ari and Kimhi withdrew their claims to lawyer-client confidentiality over the material. *(Ran Ossendyker/Israel Sun)*

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## Social Security deal signed with Uruguay

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Uruguay's President Julio Maria Sanguinetti signed three deals on cooperation with Israel in the fields of social security, investments and medical and veterinary care.

Israel and Uruguay also will conduct a joint economic seminar, the purpose of which will be to balance the trade relationship between the two countries, which, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has been substantially in Uruguay's favor.

Netanyahu said the social security deal is the first of its kind with a Latin American country. The firm news agency quoted him as saying it will protect individuals who transfer their places of domicile from one country to the other.

Earlier, Sanguinetti and his entourage of senior officials and Uruguayan business executives participated in an official welcome ceremony at President Ezer Weizman's residence, where Weizman said, "We have gone a long way with the Palestinians and the two sides must do everything today to advance further and prevent a dangerous deterioration."



Uruguay's President Julio Maria Sanguinetti (left) and President Ezer Weizman review an honor guard at Beit Hanassi yesterday. (Arie Jerolimski)

## Rapist gets 22 years

Alexander Piskov, 28, of Kiryat Motzkin, was sentenced yesterday to 22 years' imprisonment by the Haifa District Court, after confessing to raping two women and molesting five others in the Haifa Bay suburbs.

In one case, Piskov accosted a woman as she was about to enter her Kiryat Bialik home, grabbed her from behind, and, holding a knife to her neck, dragged her into some bushes in back of her home and raped her.

Afterward, he thanked his victim, apologized, and suggested that she carry tear gas for self-protection.

A week later Piskov broke into a woman's Kiryat Motzkin home, surprised her as she was sleeping, raped her at knifepoint and then sodomized her. The woman also suffered cuts from the knife.

Piskov, who also assaulted five other women, was finally caught in December when one of the rape victims agreed to cooperate and act as a decoy in a police ambush. Piskov was wearing a bra when

he was arrested and became known as the "bra-wearing rapist."

A psychiatric evaluation showed that while Piskov suffered from a personality disorder, he was not psychotic. During the trial, the accused expressed regret for his actions. His lawyer noted that Piskov had immigrated here a year ago, had suffered absorption difficulties and was having problems with his wife.

Judges Micha Lindenstraus, Salim Jubran and Menahem Ne'eman, said, in passing sentence, that the fact that Piskov confessed had spared the women he had attacked the trauma of confronting him in the courtroom.

Nevertheless, they added, the number of assaults involved demonstrated he acted methodically, and because rapes and other sex crimes are becoming more common, it was necessary to issue harsh sentences, to deter others who, like the accused, "believe that the body of a woman is fair game and that they are free to abuse it." (Itm)

## Test-tube baby's sex chosen to ensure healthy child

By JUDY SEGAL

Israel's first test-tube baby whose sex was chosen in order to avoid a severe genetic disease was born Friday at Poriya Hospital outside Tiberias. The unusual in-vitro procedure — which has so far produced only 150 babies abroad — was performed last July at Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem.

The 3.1-kilogram, healthy baby girl was born to a 24-year-old mother who had trouble getting pregnant. Hadassah tests showed that her husband, who is also her cousin, suffered from a genetic syndrome with a high risk of infertility and a high rate of mental retardation in the male offspring. An excess of sex chromosomes is the cause of this, particularly Klinefelter syndrome.

In order to allow the couple to have healthy children, gynecology and obstetrics department doctors, headed by its chairman Prof. Neri Laufer, performed in-vitro fertilization using six ova. Five

embryos were produced.

To ensure that no males were implanted in the uterus, they took one cell from each of the eight-cell embryos to determine their sex. Of the five, four were female embryos, and they were implanted in the womb; one of them developed into a healthy baby.

Laufer explained that Hadassah has so far made 14 attempts at pre-implantation genetic diagnosis for Tay-Sachs, cystic fibrosis, and Rh factor incompatibility; of these, three women have become pregnant, the first just having given birth at Poriya.

Laufer said he knows of no other Israeli hospitals that have produced a pregnancy after selecting healthy embryos.

The Hadassah gynecologist said the Health Ministry permits such procedures only on embryos that could be affected by serious genetic diseases, and not for choosing the sex of a baby merely out of convenience or personal preference.

## US fund-raisers meet today with Burg on Agency debt

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The United Israel Appeal, which forwards United Jewish Appeal funds to the Jewish Agency, is meeting in New York today with agency head Avraham Burg to discuss the agency's \$400 million debt.

The agency is no longer able to borrow from the banks, is behind in paying its suppliers and is said to be having trouble meeting its payroll, according to published reports.

The agency has made an appeal for \$60 million in emergency aid from local federations. Sources said yesterday the federations were likely to come up with part, but not all, of that request.

Jewish philanthropy through the

UIA and federation system has been somewhat flat, even as donations for "boutique" philanthropies, that target Israeli hospitals, universities and museums has jumped.

Federation aid to Israel also has been eroded by changing spending practices. While the federations used to forward most of their donations to Israel, in the last decade they have been retaining at least half to underwrite domestic Jewish programs.

Much of the Jewish Agency's debt is associated with the massive aliyah from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. US Jews helped finance those costs with a "Operation Exodus" campaign that raised some \$900 million for aliyah and absorption between 1990 and 1994.

## British Jews: UK refusal to repay WWII victims of asset seizure 'shameful'

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — The Board of Deputies of British Jewry has described as "shameful" the British government's refusal to compensate Jews whose assets were seized as enemy property during World War II.

The assets, estimated at up to \$10 million at current value, had been deposited in British commercial banks for safekeeping by European Jews whose countries later fell under Nazi occupation — primarily Germany, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary.

In 1946, Britain made a token payment to about 1,000 survivors who were able to provide proof they had been "deprived of liberty" during the war, left their home countries and did not enjoy full citizenship under Nazi rule.

Heirs were entitled to claim if they could show that the original depositors of the assets had died as a result of the war. Suicide to avoid Nazi persecution did not count.

After 1956, the assets were used by the British government to compensate Jewish citizens who had lost assets in enemy countries as a result of the war.

"It is shameful if the govern-

ment refuses compensation for those to whose assets were confiscated," said Neville Nager, chief executive of the Board of Deputies. "They or their descendants have waited more than half a century for justice."

The British government has investigated the issue and is due to publish a report on its findings on Friday. The report is expected to include the names of some 25,000 accounts that were seized, including those belonging to actual enemies, and details of payments that had been made.

However, it is not expected to include a recommendation that any of the remaining claimants should be compensated or reimbursed.

This will be particularly embarrassing for Britain, which convened the Nazi gold conference in London last December to press for investigations into available knowledge on gold looted by the Nazis from both countries and individuals, to examine steps taken to reimburse countries and compensate individual victims, and to examine the case for further compensation of individuals or reimbursement of countries.

Swiss banks, which were cast as the major villain at the conference, last week agreed to compensate Holocaust victims.

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<p><b>FROUMINE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coconut cookies with nuts</li> <li>Coconut cookies</li> <li>Date filled coconut cookies</li> <li>Coconut cookies with chocolate chips</li> </ul> <p><small>Kosher For Passover (parve). Under the supervision of the Carmiel Rabbinate.</small></p>	
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<p><b>Assis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kvetchup regular / spicy</li> <li>Natural Vinegar 5%</li> </ul> <p><small>Kosher For Passover (parve) also for those who do not eat kitrit, Under the supervision of Rabbi Ya'acov Moshe Charlap.</small></p>	
<p><b>Assis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear tuna chunks in water A2</li> <li>Clear tuna chunks in oil A2</li> <li>Clear tuna chunks in oil 1.1 Kg.</li> </ul> <p><small>Kosher For Passover (parve). Under the supervision of the Rabbinate of Tirat Hacarmel.</small></p>	
<p><b>Assis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MITZLI mango and peach nectar</li> <li>apple and orange juice</li> </ul> <p><small>Kosher For Passover (parve) only for those who eat kitrit, Under the supervision of Rabbinate of Tirat Hacarmel.</small></p>	
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<p><b>Assis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sweet Diet Tablets and Sucrazit liquid</li> </ul> <p><small>Under the supervision of the Rabbinate of Rosh Ha'ayin, and with hechsher of the Eida Haredit, Jerusalem</small></p>	

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## Dolls within dolls within...

President Boris Yeltsin has drawn much scorn for a peremptory dismissal of his cabinet last week, and for appointing an inexperienced unknown as prime minister of such a colossal and troubled country. But Yeltsin's dismissal of his solid, if dull, colleague Viktor Chernomyrdin was not as simple as it looked, and Yeltsin is not as daft as he is being painted.

It is still like the wild West out in Russia's political and economic hinterland, and civilized order may not prevail for some time.

Another appropriate metaphor for the country's politics is the traditional nest of Russian wooden dolls — remove one and a similar one remains inside, diminished but a perfect copy.

Remove Yeltsin, and who will next lead Russia? Most likely it will be someone who will previously have been removed by Yeltsin for carrying out Yeltsin policies. The chronology of last week's events in Russia seemingly begins with Yeltsin's sudden announcement that he was firing his cabinet.

### Oiling the wheels

We should perhaps start a little further back, at the beginning of February. Chernomyrdin, a former chairman of Gazprom, was a guest of honor when a merger between two Russian oil giants was announced. They formed Yukos, which is now a member of the exclusive club of the world's biggest oil companies. There remains one big state oil company, Rosneft, and that is due to be sold this year. One Russian newspaper wrote "the next president will be chosen at the Rosneft auction."

Politics in Russia is now inseparable from the world of multi-billion dollar business. Two years ago, Russia's top tycoons threw their weight and influence behind Yeltsin to ensure that the Communist leader Gennadi Zyuganov was defeated. That puts Chernomyrdin's firing in a different light altogether, especially since he at once announced he will run for president in 2000.

It is especially curious when coupled with the comment Yeltsin gave while he was welcoming UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to Moscow. When asked what he thought of Chernomyrdin's swift declaration of candidacy, Yeltsin drifted into his familiar enigma mode. "This is no surprise; it is perfectly consistent with our common policy and our spirit of cooperation."

Does that mean Yeltsin fired the prime minister so he could have a long run in to the presidency? Or does it mean that Chernomyrdin can devote his time to gathering a powerful business and political fraternity behind a presidential bid, before handing the pre-packed support over to the wily Yeltsin, who would then announce his candidacy for a third term?

### Kings and Communists

Russian media analysts are having a field day with this lat-

est turn of events. Yeltsin was asked if "common policy and cooperation" meant he was anointing Chernomyrdin as his successor. "Kings have successors," he snapped. "Here we are a democracy and the people choose."

Sure! Sheep choose which fold to sleep in — the close one, the familiar one, the ready-made one. The people in Russia have a long way to go before they are as empowered to choose as the French, for example.

In the meantime, Russia does have a constitution and rules of law and government, even if they are heavily weighted in favor of the presidency. On Friday the Duma (parliament) will meet to fume over Yeltsin's appointment of the untested Sergei Kiriyenko as prime minister.

Many deputies are outraged by Yeltsin's cavalier attitude to dismissing Chernomyrdin, Yeltsin announced that he would be temporary prime minister. This was one of those periodic befuddled statements that alarm Yeltsin's aides and make Russians wonder if the old man is still playing with a full deck.

### Callow youth

Yeltsin was hastily reminded that the constitution explicitly outlaws one person from holding both jobs. So Kiriyenko's appointment had a farcical air, as if Yeltsin had waved a hand around a room and said "Oh all right then; you over there, you'll do!"

It may be all very unfair to the 35-year-old Kiriyenko, an intelligent and diligent banker who made a deft jump from Komsomol youth Communist to capitalist true believer. He was made energy minister only four months ago, by virtue of a brief stint as director of a state oil refinery. That was scarcely enough time to become familiar with the office filing cabinet before being catapulted into the premiership of Russia.

In Saturday's newspapers, a photograph of the bespectacled young banker with a thin nervous smile, his head bowed in front of Yeltsin, said it all — here is a mild, sober, competent man, totally out of his depth.

People have been known to rise to such challenges, but not under a president like Yeltsin. Kiriyenko is no personal confidante and, in any case, past loyalty has never saved anyone from Yeltsin's busy ax. He is simply the next item of cannon fodder on the Yeltsin firing line — with no vote of confidence and no guarantee of enough time even to find out what a prime minister does.

The antics of Yeltsin are sometimes amusing, sometimes irritating, but always perplexing. It is a matter for constant wonder that he can still keep going — but there he is, still firmly in control, still proclaiming democracy and behaving like an autocrat.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

# 'Will any good come out of it'

As Clinton treks through sub-Saharan Africa, black Americans respond to the trip

By JONATHAN PETERSON

WASHINGTON — A few blocks from the White House, leaning against a batch of umbrellas for sale in a white bucket, David Opat happily shared his view of President Clinton's visit to Africa, Opat's home continent.

"It's nice. It's welcome," declared the 40-year-old street vendor, who immigrated to the US from Kenya five years ago. But, he asked with feeling, "Will anything good come out of it?" As Clinton treks through sub-Saharan Africa, an audience thousands of miles away is responding to his trip with a wide range of emotions.

Black Americans expressed generally favorable views about Clinton's visit to the land of their ancestors in a series of random interviews in Washington, southern California, Atlanta and Houston.

At the same time, their reactions to Clinton's apologetic words about slavery and the world response to genocide in Rwanda — and even to the fact of the president's journey — often were guarded and complex. Some questioned the value of such gestures, as well as the role of US economic self-interest as a force behind the trip. Still others wondered whether the White House is using Africa to distract the public from the welter of allegations facing Clinton at home.

"It reminded me of the film *Wag the Dog*, when the president was in a faraway place until his spin doctors could calm down the scandal," said Thelma Reyna, principal of California's South Pasadena High School, noting that Africa "tugs at the heart strings."

Houston attorney Darlene Taylor, 33, lamented the ongoing problem of racism but wondered about the benefits of a formal apology for slavery, which Clinton came close to making in Uganda on Tuesday when he declared that slavery was wrong.

"I don't understand what people want," Taylor said. "Everybody is so far removed from that time and place. I don't see why he feels he has to apologize for it. It's not like we can all go back to Africa now."

Clinton's moves last year to create an advisory board on race, along with his apology for the Tuskegee medical experiment in the 1940s in which unsuspecting black men were denied treatment for syphilis, sparked calls for an official apology for slavery. In a different way, his Africa trip has also highlighted the practice of slavery in America and the ancient bond between the two regions.

Those interviewed offered a gamut of views on the worth of an apology, how-



The Clintons and Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu on the steps of Air Force One. Back home, black Americans appreciated Clinton's statement that the US must share the blame for the Rwanda genocide. (AP)

ever, views that included great skepticism.

Others were far more enthusiastic about the high-level trip. Clinton's words on slavery and all the attention the visit is focusing on an often overlooked part of the world. Some maintained it was high time a US president made the effort to go to Africa and gain a firsthand familiarity with the continent.

Others had only the vaguest knowledge of the trip at all, perhaps reflecting the scant attention many Americans pay to foreign affairs.

Walt Allen, a state of California narcotics enforcement agent who lives in Covina, east-of-downtown Los Angeles, said that he had been too busy at work to

follow the details of Clinton's excursion and that he suspected that business and idealism have both played into the trip. But Allen also said that the US has paid insufficient attention to Africa and that establishing closer ties would be good for all parties.

"For me, as an African American, any visit to Africa by President Clinton or another president is good," Allen said.

Some of those interviewed also pointed to Africa as a place of prodigious natural wealth that is largely undeveloped.

James Wamsi Shirley, a retiree in West Los Angeles, noted, "The president goes everywhere else in the world, why not Africa?" Shirley grew up with a consciousness of Africa: All the children in his family were given African middle names, he said, to honor their African-born grandparents.

"He's very smart. If America doesn't go in there, some other country's going to go in there," Shirley said of Clinton. "Once they [Africans] get themselves together, it's going to be a big market."

Shirley was no cynic about Clinton's remark on slavery either. "We apologize to the Japanese. We apologize to the Jews. It seems to me it's a great big thing to apologize to the black folks," he said.

Elsewhere in Los Angeles, James Randolph, 35, citing Clinton's statement that the United States and other nations must share the blame for the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, said the president has succeeded in elevating issues of principle.

"Human issues that don't affect economics are put on the back burner, but Clinton, just by talking about Rwanda, brings human issues out more," said Randolph, a warehouse worker.

"Just by going there, he acknowledges the African states will be a major player in the world, especially since Africa has so many natural resources," Randolph maintained.

Clearly, many of those interviewed believed that the US historically has not been a good friend or partner to Africa, an assessment that fueled sympathy for Clinton's bid to reach out.

Just a few blocks away from the White House, in a shop packed with African artifacts, Irma Tucker offered her own upbeat assessment as she sifted through a display of multicolored batik fabrics featuring dancers, drummers and other images of tribal life.

"I think it's long overdue," said Tucker, a 43-year-old federal employee.

But asked whether the Clinton visit will lead to good, Tucker was more cautious. "We have to wait and see," she said. (Los Angeles Times)

## Pollution clouds Hungary's EU hopes

By MICHAEL RODDY

BUDAPEST — The river Danube dividing the Hungarian capital is one of Budapest's main tourist attractions, but there is a good reason for not swimming in it.

"Most waste water is treated only very roughly," said Janos Vargha, president of the Danube Circle environmental group.

"And what that means is it will stop a dead cow. Anything smaller will go straight into the river."

As Hungary starts negotiations with the EU next week along with five other first-wave candidates for EU expansion, it is clear that this former East bloc country has made great strides in "westernizing" itself, but it still has a long way to go.

"We are on the path to the EU,"

President Arpad Goncz, a hero of Hungary's abortive 1956 revolution against Soviet domination, told a cheering crowd on Hungary's 150th National Day this month.

All of Hungary's parliamentary political parties endorse EU membership and opinion polls of the country's 10.2 million people always show strong support for joining.

"Hungary without any doubt is estimated to be on the top" of candidates for the EU, said Eckhard Jaedike, counselor to the EU mission to Hungary.

Jaedike and other Western officials praise Hungary for its preparations for EU membership, particularly the thoroughness with which it completed a voluminous application form and its speed at modifying its codes and

regulations to EU standards.

Hungary's economy, too, has made remarkable strides. A government austerity program and tough-minded management of the economy are credited with bringing down inflation from 28.2 percent year-on-year in 1995 to under 18 percent today.

The country is the region's leader in foreign direct investment — more than \$17 billion at last count.

"The stabilization and the strengthening of Hungary's economy over the last couple of years mean that it is probably as well placed as anyone to work towards meeting the European macroeconomic targets," said Mark Allen, senior representative in Hungary for the International Monetary Fund.

"We would think that Hungary

would be up there with the other front-runners."

Miklos Hegedus, managing director of the economic think-tank GKI, said EU membership should only strengthen the economy.

"The prospect of EU and NATO membership considerably strengthens cooperation (with Western Europe) and could lead to a further very important capital injection for modernizing Hungary," he said.

This would play a very important role in reducing the present economic gap that separates Hungary from EU countries. "Hegedus said Hungary needs an enormous effort to upgrade infrastructure, suffering from 50 years of communist neglect that has left it with huge problems such as the Danube pollution.

"Hungary's road, rail, water and sewage infrastructure need very significant investments," he said.

Environmental groups say more than 75 percent of Budapest's sewage goes straight into the Danube while half of Hungarian households do not have proper sewerage provisions.

Vargha said Hungary has 10,000 illegal waste dumps while 600 tons of mercury is buried in the soil in eastern Borsod county, seat of the chemical industry.

"The environment is really a big task, but whether it is the biggest I don't know," said Janos Sudar, the Environment Ministry's representative for EU integration.

See HUNGARY, Page 7

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Election Committee for the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv - Yafo  
1 Rehov Uri, P.O.B. 9, Tel Aviv 61000 Tel. 03-693-8930, Fax. 03-696-4083

Announcement  
of Elections for an Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv - Yafo  
according to the Chief Rabbis' Election Regulations, 5735 - 1974

The Election Committee for the Tel Aviv-Yafo Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi announces that the elections will take place on Sunday, April 26, 1998 (30 Nissan 5758), from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Religious Council, 1 Rehov Uri, 5th floor.

The date has been set by the Minister of Religious Affairs following his decision, after consultations with the Chief Rabbis, to shorten the prior notification period for elections, which is at least 60 days after publication of the announcement in the official Government Gazette, and for sending out announcements to all members of the election body, to the Council of the Chief Rabbinate and the Minister of Religious Affairs, as stated in Regulation 8 of the Regulations for Elections for town Chief Rabbis, 5735, 1974 (1).

Attention is drawn to Regulation 10 of the above mentioned Regulations which states:

"Whoever is qualified to be elected Chief Rabbi of a town is entitled to submit his candidacy in writing not later than 7 days before the election date, and three members of the election committee are entitled, not later than the said date, to submit a candidate who has agreed in writing."

Qualified candidates from around the world are entitled to submit their candidacy for the post of Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Yafo and attention is drawn to Regulation 3 of the said regulations which establish the qualifications for election as Chief Rabbi of a town

Candidacy, with qualification documents, in accordance with Regulation 3, can be submitted to the Religious Council, 1 Rehov Uri, POB 9, Tel Aviv-Yafo within the period stipulated in the above mentioned Regulation 10, not later than April 19, 1998 - 23 Nissan, 5758.

3 Nissan 5758 (March 30, 1998)

Advocate Shmuel Altalef  
Head of the Religious Council of Tel Aviv-Yafo  
Chairman of the Election Committee for Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Yafo  
Signed -

(1) Collection of Regulations 532

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by Beth Elon

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# Ukrainian Left gains in poll

By HOSISLAV KHOTIN

KIEV (Reuters) - The political complexion of Ukraine's new parliament was in doubt yesterday after the Central Electoral Commission said independent candidates won more than a quarter of the seats.

But the strong showing by the Communists in Sunday's parliamentary election showed voters had run out of patience with stalemated reforms, politicians and commentators said.

A large chunk of the former Soviet republic's 37 million registered voters, fed up with economic hardships, had been widely expected to vote for the left in a show of no-confidence in Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's go-slow reforms.

Mykhailo Ryabets, head of the commission, said the Communists came second in the contest for Ukraine's 225 single-man-

date constituencies, elected by a simple majority vote, while candidates with no party affiliation won 114 seats. Some 3,500 candidates had competed.

"The Communists have won 37 seats of the single mandates [constituencies]," Ryabets told a news conference in the capital, Kiev.

The pro-government People's Democratic Party of Ukraine won 13 seats, the nationalist Rukh Party won eight seats, the pro-government Agrarian Party of Ukraine gained 10 seats while the Socialist and Peasant Party Bloc won 7 seats.

The remaining results, in which 30 parties and blocs competed on party lists for a further 225 places in parliament, will only be released today. The commission must process complex ballot forms from 32,513 polling stations spread across a territory the size of France.

"It is taking longer than expected to process the party lists," said Ryabets. "We are only just beginning to get computer data now," he said. The Communists are still expected to do well in the party lists.

Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine's former president and one of the leaders of the centrist Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (United), said the left's popularity showed many disillusioned with Kuchma's reforms.

"People are voting against the economic situation in this country," he said.

Valery Khmilko, an analyst at the Kiev Center for Political Studies, said: "Our parliament will be more left-wing, which will make it more difficult to conduct economic reforms in Ukraine."

Ukraine's commercial Inter television channel put the Communists' strong showing down partly to a lack of electricity to power television sets in Ukraine's rural villages.

"Many in the countryside were unable to watch television," a news commentator said. "The only party they had heard of was the Communists."

A team of electoral observers from the Council of Europe criticized confusion and tensions during local elections in the ports of Odessa and Sevastopol, but gave the parliamentary poll a clean bill of health.

"Everything went more or less smoothly, we didn't observe any anomalies," Alain Chenard, the head of the team, told a news conference.

Ukraine's hryvnia currency was stable on Monday at 2,0383 per dollar on the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange, unchanged from Friday. But share dealers said buyers were staying away until election results were known.

Turnout among Ukraine's 37 million registered voters on Sunday totalled 69.64%.

## No turning back the economic clock

### ANALYSIS

KIEV (Reuters) - Ukraine's sluggish economic reforms may continue intact despite assessments that the Communists and their center-left allies will return to power.

"There are a number of countries where communists have come to government and have proven to be quite conservative in their financial policies," a Western economic expert in Kiev said. "But it's difficult to say at this point the effect on long-run policies in favor of developing the private sector."

Political observers across-the-board have attributed the leftward swing as a vote by Ukrainians against President Leonid Kuchma and his economic reforms launched in 1994, three years after independence from the Soviet Union.

The Communists, the centrist Hromada party, and the left Socialist and Peasant Party alliance which are set to enter parliament all oppose the tight fiscal policies advocated by the International Monetary Fund.

The parties have blamed the IMF for debts of \$3.25 billion owed to Ukrainian workers and pensioners, cited by voters as the main reason they supported the Ukrainian left.

"People are not satisfied. People are fed up with the circumstances. That makes them vote Communist," a Western banker said.

Ukraine and the IMF are due to meet early next month to discuss delivery of a \$50 million tranche after the fund suspended its \$542 million, one-year stand-by program earlier this month.

Last week the World Bank delayed a \$600 million loan to Ukraine, saying the republic had made little progress in macroeconomic reform.

But the banker said the left was aware the cash-strapped government would have to move ahead with reforms to raise money for the budget and fulfill election promises to make life better for the 50 million population.

The government is already having to pay high premiums to borrow on an international market sceptical of Ukraine's reform credentials.

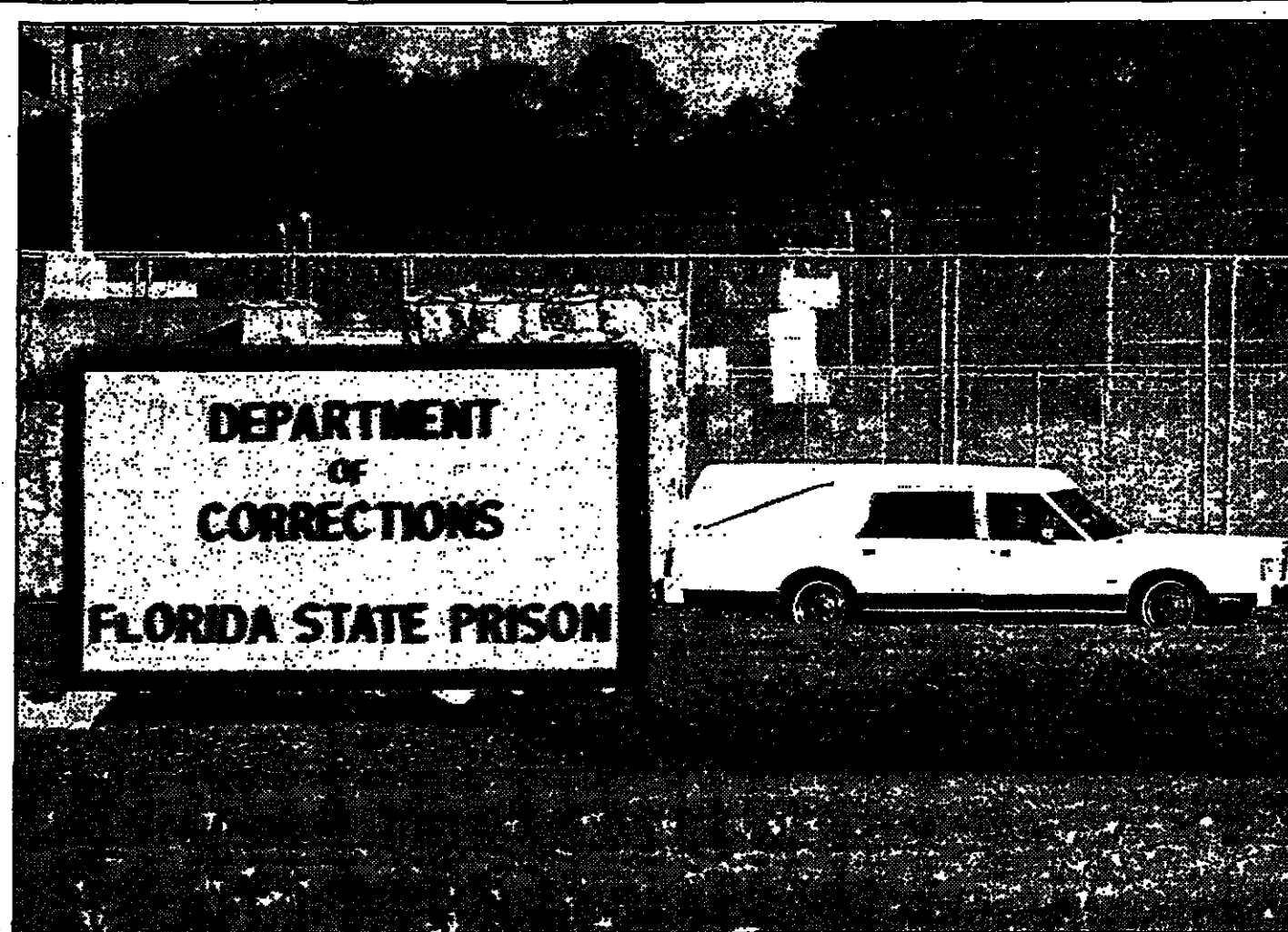
"They have to react. They have to privatize," he said.

Ukraine's leftist parties are opposed to the private ownership of land and the development of private business.

The hryvnia currency remained unchanged at 2,0383 on the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange yesterday.

The stock market system failed to open as traders awaited results.

"Tradition is now playing a waiting game," Alexander Paryshuk, a political analyst, said. "But if the Communists have a majority, money will leave the Ukrainian market."



'Black Widow' gets the chair

A hearse carries the body of Judy Buonoano, 54, from Florida State Prison after her execution yesterday. Dubbed the 'Black Widow' for poisoning her husband, killing her son, and trying to blow up her boyfriend, Buonoano was the first woman to die in an electric chair and the third to be executed in the US since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

(Reuters)

## Turkey condemns Cyprus-EU talks

NICOSIA (Reuters) - Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem warned that the start of Greek Cypriot membership talks with the European Union yesterday signalled a hazardous increase in tension in the eastern Mediterranean.

The treatment by the EU of the Greek Cypriot administration as the representative of the whole of Cyprus constitutes the first step towards escalation in the eastern Mediterranean, which can be very dangerous," Cem told a news conference.

The EU began negotiations with the island's Greek Cypriot government, recognized internationally as the only legal administration on the divided island.

Turkey, left out of the EU expansion process, accuses the EU of taking sides in the Cyprus dispute and has threatened to partially integrate a Turkish Cypriot breakaway state in retaliation for the Greek Cypriot talks in Brussels.

"We once again call upon the EU to evaluate its future steps very carefully before it is too late and before the Greek Cypriot administration paves the way towards another war in the island," Cem said.

Cem, on a one-day trip to northern Cyprus to coordinate policy towards the EU with Turkish Cypriot officials, earlier met Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash.

Cyprus has been divided between rival Turkish and Greek Cypriot zones since Turkey invaded the north of the island in 1974 in

response to a Greek Cypriot coup backed by Athens.

Turkey keeps 30,000 troops stationed in the northern third of the island, which is recognized as a state only by Ankara.

"Any provocation or aggression directed against you, is also directed towards us and any provocation or aggression against us is also directed towards you. Let this be known to all, whether friends or foes, and let them watch their steps," Cem said.

Cyprus is a perennial irritant between NATO allies Turkey and Greece, which almost went to war in 1996 over territorial rights in the eastern Mediterranean. Jets from the two countries staged mock dog-fights in a tense standoff last year.

Turkey has hardened its stance on Cyprus since the EU decided at a summit in Luxembourg last December to leave it out of the Union's eastward expansion. The EU blamed Turkey's human-rights record, Kurdish conflict and disputes with Greece for its exclusion.

Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots were absent from the official start of EU enlargement at a meeting of 26 countries in Brussels yesterday.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook told the meeting that the EU had confirmed "Turkey's eligibility for accession to the EU and that Turkey would be judged against the same criteria as the others."

Negotiations are due to open today with the six candidate countries closest to membership - the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus.

## HUNGARY

Continued from Page 6

Sudar said Hungary had received 60 million Ecus (\$64.8 million) for environmental purposes from the EU's PHARE assistance program over the past seven years. The money was used for "institution building, education and training" but no complete sewage treatment plant was built, he said.

Another concern for Hungary's future relations with the EU is that it is a net exporter of agricultural products, with food, drinks and tobacco accounting for 13 percent of \$19 billion in exports in 1997.

In Hungary, land and labor are cheap and there is a pervasive government subsidy system in place at a time when the EU is wrestling with a Common Agricultural Policy which, with subsidies, consumes half its budget.

According to official figures, Hungary will spend a total of 100 billion forints (\$500 million) on agricultural subsidies this year.

The EU fears that Hungary will dump its cheap farm products on its markets, but there are also fears in Hungary whether the country could reform its entire agricultural system to become compatible with the Union's," said GKI's Hegedus.

Agricultural reform is a government priority. "Our main task is to reform the entire agricultural institutional framework in line with EU requirements," said Istvan Feher, cabinet chief at the Agriculture Ministry.

He said that while land ownership rights will have to be changed by the time Hungary joins the EU, it is an economic imperative in its own right to get away from the current patchwork system.

He added that current regulations preventing foreigners from owning farmland must be changed, despite intense disputes over the issue.

"Either we adapt our legislation to that of the EU, or we ask for a grace period to introduce such changes," he said.

Last year land ownership was the focus of fierce debate.

Government parties want to allow foreigners to own farmland; the opposition wants to block the scheme, saying overseas buyers would take advantage of low prices.

Arable land accounts for 4.7 million hectares (11.6 million acres) of Hungary's 9.3 million hectare (23 million acres) surface area.

(Reuters)

## Boris Yeltsin: I won't run again

By MARTIN NESIRKY

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Boris Yeltsin said yesterday he would not run in Russia's next presidential election but stopped well short of anointing ex-prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin his successor-in-waiting.

The Communists added spice to the start of a second week of political drama by saying Russia faces a crisis as perilous as the 1991 coup attempt against Mikhail Gorbachev and Yeltsin's own bloody standoff with the Soviet-era parliament in 1993.

But Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov leavened his tough rhetoric with a hint of compromise on Yeltsin's choice of replacement for Chernomyrdin, the novice Sergei Kiriyenko.

In his first comments on Chernomyrdin's weekend announcement that he would stand in the 2000 election, Yeltsin told reporters the former premier's move fitted into the Kremlin's scheme of thinking.

But Yeltsin, speaking before talks with visiting UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, typically provided more questions than answers to the latest turn in Russia's political maze.

"It's not right for us to think about successors," said Yeltsin, who has dubbed himself "Tsar Boris" in the past. "Kings have successors. But we don't. The people choose."

Yeltsin sacked the entire cabinet last Monday and told Kiriyenko, just 35 and less than a year in government, to form a new team to speed up economic reforms. He said he thought the opposition-led parliament would approve Kiriyenko as premier when it considers his candidacy on Friday.

The Communist Party, the largest faction in the State Duma lower house, repeated it would not back Kiriyenko.

Zyuganov told reporters the Communists wanted a Duma vote tomorrow to urge Yeltsin to convene a cross-party "round table" and withdraw Kiriyenko's candidacy.

"The situation is no less dramatic than in August 1991, October 1993, and on the eve of the Chechen war," Zyuganov said. "If both house of parliament are faint-hearted, the situation could get out of control."

But in a hint of possible compromise, he said Kiriyenko's name should be withdrawn "until" the round table had discussed the line-up for a new cabinet.



Boris Yeltsin (Reuters)

Yeltsin has not seemed in the mood for compromise. He has warned the Duma to back Kiriyenko or face an early election. The president, who often draws strength from political adversity, stunned Russia a week ago by sacking Chernomyrdin and his cabinet for going soft on economic reform.

On Monday, he did not say whether Chernomyrdin's decision to run for president, and more importantly the timing of Saturday's announcement, was coordinated with him. Significantly, by ducking a question on successors, he pointedly declined to give the 59-year-old ex-prime minister his unequivocal blessing.

Chernomyrdin's decision "does not fall outside the general sphere of our policy," he said.

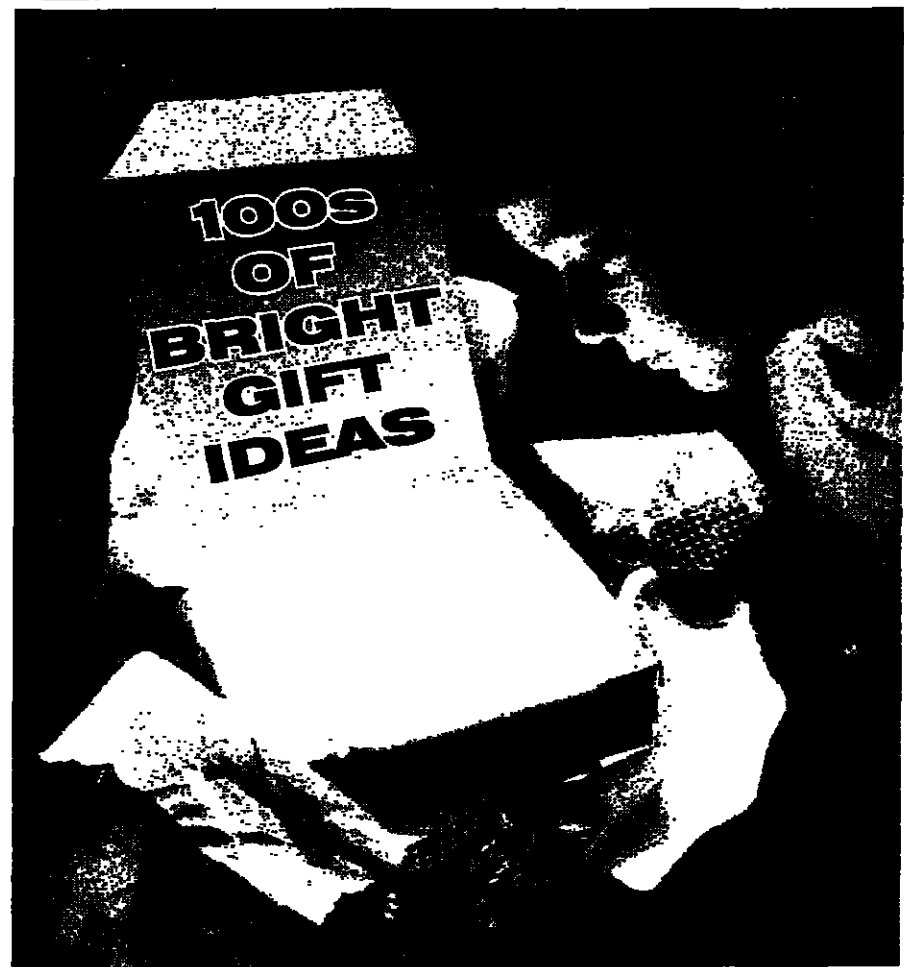
Chernomyrdin, with similar ambiguity, had said on Saturday he "understood" Yeltsin and agreed with his decision.

Mildly chiding Chernomyrdin for giving any impression his removal was voluntary, Yeltsin told reporters: "I took the decision on the removal of the government. But at the same time, having in mind that he [Chernomyrdin] will head the presidential campaign for the 2000 elections."

"We need a strong leader for that. And considering that I, as it were, am not taking part in the elections, we need reinforcements."

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, told RIA news agency Chernomyrdin's decision was not unexpected. But, Interfax news agency on Sunday quoted administration officials as saying Yeltsin and his team were indeed caught off guard.

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## 28 die as plane hits Peru shantytown

By MARLU RUIZ

PIURA, Peru (Reuters) - An air force plane plunged into a Peruvian shantytown late Sunday, killing 28 civilians as it crashed into a drainage canal. Only yards from hundreds of homes, authorities said.

As many as 20 other passengers were injured in the crash, they said. Two townspeople, one a young boy, were hurt by flying debris after the plane, with over 50 people aboard, plummeted into the canal and split in two.

The pilot narrowly avoided a much worse disaster by guiding his falling plane over the populated area to crash-land in the channel running through the center of the shantytown, just outside the northern town of Piura.

As the plane, which had lost power in one of its two engines, dropped down over the crowded shantytown, a propeller clipped and partially destroyed three houses.

"He [the pilot] was trying to reach the airport, and he kept losing height. To avoid falling onto houses, he crashed the plane nose-first into the canal," President Alberto Fujimori told local radio station CPN.

The plane was ferrying civilians from towns in northern Peru to Piura, because violent storms driven by El Nino had triggered floods and mudslides, blocking some land routes.

Fujimori said some passengers were able to walk away from the crash site unharmed and the plane's five-member flight crew survived.

The Ukrainian-built Antonov An-32 plane beached across the shallow, 40-meter-wide canal and skidded up its far slope before the cockpit split from the main cabin, witnesses and air force officials said.

The plane's tail, with its red-and-white Peruvian flag, remained in the canal.



# An awful month to be an Albanian

By RICHARD BOUDREAU

ATHENS, Greece — Here in the southern Balkans, an ethnic, crazy quilt tearing at the seams, it's been an awful month to be an Albanian.

First came the police crackdown that left at least 80 ethnic Albanians dead in Serbia's separatist-minded Kosovo province. Then fear spread south to neighboring Macedonia that its own restive Albanian minority would be drawn into the fray.

In Albania itself, a people healing the wounds of their own anarchic civil strife of a year ago have stood by, pained and helpless, knowing their little they can do to defend their brethren against Slavic majorities in either country should push come to shove.

And now hundreds of Albanians are being rounded up by Greek police fighting a crime wave that the police blame on armed illegal immigrants. A string of murders and assaults has set off the panic buying of alarm systems, steel doors, hunting rifles and attack dogs in this country. At least one Greek town has formed a vigilante squad.

"I don't want any more Albanians coming here," said

Nikos Mavrikis, an Athens taxi driver whose colleagues keep getting robbed at gunpoint. "Otherwise, in another 20, 30 years they'll create a minority problem just like in Kosovo."

As the US and its allies struggle to defuse the Kosovo conflict, the countries of the southern Balkans are entangled in problems posed by an Albanian diaspora that feels ignored by the West.

Voices across the region warn that the problems hold the seeds of new Balkan unrest even more contagious than Bosnia-Herzegovina's.

"The Bosnian crisis was clearly confined within the former Yugoslavia, while the Kosovo crisis involves, by its nature, all neighboring countries," political commentator Stavros Lygeros wrote in the Athens newspaper Kathimerini.

The Yugoslav federation, which once comprised six republics, split apart in 1991 when Slovenia, Croatia and then Bosnia declared independence, triggering a northern Balkan war that raged through 1995.

Kosovo, which was stripped of its autonomous status by Serbian

strongman Slobodan Milosevic in 1989, has a population that is 90 percent Albanian. It is surrounded on three sides by sympathetic diaspora communities in Macedonia, Albania proper and the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro. This corner of the Balkans, including Greece, is home to about 7 million Albanians.

Many of them dream of reviving the Greater Albania that existed in the Ottoman Empire until the Ottomans' defeat early this century. Albanians then saw their homeland carved up by a victorious alliance that included Serbia, Montenegro and Greece.

During the Yugoslav federation's post-Soviet breakup, Albanians pressed to re-gather their lands but were rebuffed. Kosovo, calm at the time, was excluded as an issue in the US-sponsored peace talks that ended the northern Balkan war.

"From a historical viewpoint, the situation in Kosovo is one of the injustices imposed on the Albanian nation at the beginning of the century and which, at the end of it, remains unresolved," Albanian Prime Minister Fatos Nano said during a recent visit to Athens.

On Wednesday, the Albanian

Embassy here lashed out at the Greek mass media, accusing it of cultivating racist feelings by attributing the rise in crime rates to Albanian immigrants.

"This creates an unrealistic opinion about Albanians in general that sometimes leads to racist, extremist and xenophobic reactions toward them," an embassy statement said.

Since the crackdown early this month in Kosovo, officials from the Balkans and beyond have been crisscrossing the region trying to make sure the fighting does not spread. So far it hasn't.

"There are people all over the Balkans who are willing to use violence to achieve any means, but part of the calculation is that nobody is prepared yet for a showdown," a Western diplomat in Athens said. "There's a strong current of pessimism about Kosovo but not necessarily alarm." Still, he added, "everyone knows that the security situation is inherently unstable and could change in no time flat."

The nightmare scenario Balkan leaders are struggling to avoid goes like this: Kosovo erupts again. As fighting drags on, Kosovo's ethnic Albanians flee to

northwest Macedonia and to Albania, stirring ethnic brethren there to go help stop the Serbs. The surge of refugees upsets a fragile ethnic peace in Macedonia; elements of the fledgling Kosovo Liberation Army stage attacks on Macedonia's Slavic leadership, which then allies with Serbia.

Macedonia plunges into ethnic warfare, according to the scenario, and breaks in two. Refugees move south into Greece. Alarmed by the prospect of more crime, Greece sends troops to the Macedonian border and bloodshed erupts. Turkey, which tends to counter Greece's every move in the Balkans, sides with the Albanians, setting up a conflict between the two NATO members.

What makes this scenario somewhat plausible, diplomats say, is Macedonia's fragility as a multi-ethnic state and the huge quantity of assault rifles — at least 100,000, by some estimates — looted from Albania's arsenals during its own civil upheaval a year ago.

AK-47 rifles have been sold for less than \$35 at street markets in Macedonia, and last year police seized 3,000 of them from Albanians trying to enter the coun-

try, according to Macedonian news reports.

Many of the looted weapons ended up in the hands of Kosovo's guerrillas.

Albanians, who make up at least 25 percent of Macedonia's population, want autonomy for their region and a fairer share of government jobs. Tensions rose last July when the mayor of the town of Gostivar defied the law and hoisted an Albanian flag over City Hall; police tore it down, three Albanians died in the ensuing riot, and the mayor was sentenced to seven years in prison. Since then, two police stations have been bombed.

"We are a small country with little economic and military power, and we can do little to maintain peace if logic does not prevail over nationalist aspirations for a Greater Albania," said Macedonian government spokesman Zoran Ivanov.

Despite nervousness over Kosovo, however, no refugees have poured into Macedonia or Albania. And although Albanians in both countries took to the streets by the thousands to demonstrate moral support for Kosovo, no one is openly advocating armed assistance.

"The main question Albanians are

asking themselves is, 'Where am I going to find a good job and money?'" said Remzi Lani, director of the Albanian Media Institute in Tirana, Albania's capital. "Nobody wants to get mixed up in Kosovo."

Greece has taken a balanced position in the conflict, hoping to emerge as the commercial powerhouse in a pacified Balkan region.

"Our long-term strategy is for all these countries to be integrated in one big family," Deputy Foreign Minister Yannis Kriakidis said.

But Greece's credibility as a would-be mediator is still damaged by its support for Milosevic during the Bosnian war and the trade blockade Athens imposed on Macedonia in a bitter feud over the former Yugoslav republic's name — a dispute settled less than three years ago.

"The most credible player in the region is still the United States," said Thanos Veremis, president of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, an Athens think tank. "The Americans hold all the cards and the sanctions, and that, in the end, is what will make a difference for the Serbs and decide the Albanians' fate."

(Los Angeles Times)

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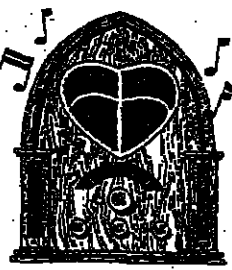
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## Holidays out of Israel



# Simple Minds stuck in an '80s time warp

In Tune



By David Brinn

Simple Minds is one of the quintessential 1980s bands. A marriage of synth pop and fervent rock that aspired to U2, the Jim Kerr-led unit was all over the radio and the charts in the mid-'80s. Propelled by the sing-along teen anthem "Don't You Forget About Me" and subsequent follow-ups, the Irish band for a time hit the perfect balance between stadium pretensions and street credibility.

Basically down to a two-man operation of Kerr and multi-instrumentalist Charlie Burchill, Simple Minds circa 1998 manages to sound passionate and detached at the same time.

Most of *Neapolis*, the band's (surprise!) third release of the 1990s, sounds like a Rip Van Winkle trip. The synths still burp and gurgle, the programmed tempos are *Breakfast Club* redux, and Kerr sings like a man with a mission. It all sounds so... '80s.

Unfortunately, while the spirit is

willing, the songwriting is weak. The meandering songs douse whatever momentum the band achieves like a glass of cold water on a flame.

Despite its failures, it's somewhat gratifying to see a band of integrity like Simple Minds back on the chain gang, but it may bode ill for what comes next. Do I see a Flock of Seagulls or a Men At Work reunion in the future?

A TOTALLY different nostalgic journey occurs on *The Storyteller*, subtitled *Musical Words and*

NEAPOLIS  
Simple Minds  
(NMC)

THE STORYTELLER  
Ray Davies  
(NMC)

Spoken Song. Ray Davies, Kink extraordinaire and one of rock's great songwriters and performers, has come up with a noble way to ward off retirement.

Based on the excellent VH-1 television series *Storytellers*, in which noted writers talk about their muse and offer live performances, Davies combines readings from his wonderfully insightful and honest autobiography *X-Ray* with acoustic versions of songs both legendary and new. The entertaining result is captured in an intimate club setting on *The Storyteller*.

Davies was always as much of a

cabaret performer as he was a rocker, and this new framework allows him to act, mimic and wax poetic. If you've ever been a Kinks fan, it's not to be missed. The whimsical, wistful quality Davies brought to "The Kinks" songs is found in abundance in his memoirs of growing up, forming a band, and making the big time.

Renditions of "20th Century Man," "Victoria" and "See My Friends" are alone worth the price of admission, but new songs like the title cut and "The Ballad of Julie Finkle" prove Davies is too talented to be put out to pasture quite yet.

Davies' comic abilities shine on his memories of auditioning drummer Mick Avory, entering art school and recording the band's first single. But more importantly, he finally solves the mystery of what brother Dave Davies is shouting just before his sizzling guitar break on the band's breakout hit "You Really Got Me." That surprising disclosure confirms that Davies and The Kinks were not rock and roll pretenders, but the real thing.

## POP QUIZ

What familial connection did Ray Davies and Jim Kerr have in the 1980s?

Clues can be located within the above reviews.

The first correct answer to be sent in to IN TUNE, c/o David Brinn, Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 9100, will receive a copy of Simple Minds' new disc *Neapolis*.



Simple Minds' Jim Kerr (left) and Charlie Burchill manage to sound passionate and detached at the same time.

## Don Juan woos Beersheba

The six pianists who have reached the final stage of the Ninth International Artur Schnabel Piano Master Competition are definitely not the best among the 45 who entered the competition or of the 20 who reached its second stage. As usual in such competitions, the jury's decision raised some bewildered eyebrows. To each his own.

## RUBINSTEIN COMPETITION

Week 2  
Tel Aviv Museum/Mann Auditorium  
March 23-29

It now remains for the six finalists to show the audience their worth. It is a pity that Sweden's Per Tengstrand was not chosen; he was one of the more intriguing competitors, with piano playing that suggested a mature person and musician alike.

The two Italians who have reached the finals, Carlo Gaioli and Filippo Gamba, are without a doubt two of the more disappointing pianists in the competition who, in fact, should not have even reached stage 2. Now each will travel home with at least \$3,000, which is quite ridiculous to say the least. If anybody wanted to give the jury and these pianists the benefit of the doubt, the first part of the finals on Sunday evening showed that these two are very boring pianists not worthy of the event.

Gaioli played Mozart (K.466) in a bland, unmusical and boring manner. It was one of the more disappointing and meaningless performances of the competition. Gamba (playing Beethoven's First Piano Concerto) was only a little better, but he too had nothing in particular to say about the music. No wonder many of the not-full house left at intermission.

Ukrainian Vitaly Samoshko (Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto) was much better. At least this is a pianist who tries to say something with his music, who tries to express some emotion. But this is not a pianist we would want to hear again and again.

Not one of these three is worthy of the coveted first prize of the competition. Hopefully the members of the jury have realized that as well. Hopefully the other three finalists will save the competition from its morbid state.

Michael Aizenstadt



An autographed sketch by Pablo Picasso dedicated by the artist to 'my friend Artur Rubinstein 1975/8.'

It looks like opera in Beersheba is here to stay, judging from the congenial public reception of this concert version of *Don Giovanni* highlights - a graceful production in a studio framework.

Versatile Larisa Tetayev sang the three soprano leads, investing Donna Anna, Donna Elvira, and Zerlina with appropriate affection, but holding to her own hefty mezzo timbre.

The men's voices were lightweight; Don Eltinger's Don was hyperactive, while his lyric baritone was lovely. David Zevah's debut was pleasant, prepared, and

ISRAELI SINFONETTA  
Uri Mayer  
Mozart's Don Giovanni  
(excerpts)

promising as Leporello. Tenor Emanuel Barcha - Ramirez (Mexico) debuted as Ottavio with maturity and warmth. Max Stern

Alexander Korsantia's performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 was the main attraction of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 4, conducted by the Estonian Paavo Jarvi.

Korsantia's immensely rich palette of tone colors and wide

range of expressivity made his rendition a spellbinding experience. From a delicately soft, caressing start, a powerful climax was grad-

## IPO

Alexander Korsantia - pianist  
Paavo Jarvi - conductor  
Works by Haydn, Nielsen and Prokofiev  
Jerusalem International Congress Center  
March 24

ually built up in the opening movement. He conjured up a champagne-like sparkle in the Scherzo. Relentlessly percussive incisiveness and persistence, contrasting with episodes of exquisite calm in the Intermezzo, led up to mounting tension and tempestuous frenzy in a finale of elemental forcefulness. The capacity of highlighting such extremes testifies to an outstanding musical personality.

Curiously was aroused by Carl Nielsen's rarely performed Symphony No. 5. Highly Romantic in style, the work's expansiveness and lack of clearly delineated directions of development hardly sustained interest to its end. Whether a more streamlined conducting could have increased the tension must be left to conjecture.

Ury Eppstein

## Ancient Indian dances: A flurry of eloquent hands

## DANCE ROUNDUP

The dancer Alarmel Valli, accompanied by a group of four musicians, presented an evening of classical dance that originated in the ancient temples of southern India and gave a most eloquent, elegant performance. The Bharata Natyam school is more energetic and

ALARMEL VALLI  
Churchill Auditorium,  
Haifa  
March 27

vivid than most other schools of Indian dance, and Valli is as fluid, agile and precise as the best of them.

She came on stage dressed in traditional silk attire with layers of folds that fanned out as she moved, strings of tiny bells on her ankles, with her fingertips and toenails polished a bright red. This dancer, endowed with radiant beauty, came across a bit aloof when she explained the narrative themes of each dance and introduced the audience to the dance vocabulary, using a series of

exquisite hand gestures.

Ancient Sanskrit script, over 2,000 years old, recorded some 4,000 finger signs (*mudras*) with the help of which a dancer can praise the gods and recount their tales. To be able to perform all the subtle messages and portray a complex array of emotions and their delicate nuances, the dancer needs to have flexible palm and finger joints, perfect control of his facial muscles, and a nimble and strong pair of feet. Valli has all this - and more.

When she dances, she is transformed into a warm, highly communicative performer who collaborates well with the four excellent musicians who accompanied her and lay at her feet five layers of intertwining, cross rhythms of Indian music. A most enjoyable experience.

chance to recite some personal associations and observations that deal with his/her life experience. They talked as candidly as

## HAGIGIT

(The Wash Tub)  
By Yael Kremsky  
Eisham Dance Theater  
A.Z.O., Tel Aviv  
March 26

possible about love and pain, regrets and blame, in one or more of the twelve short scenes that comprise *Hagigit*.

Particularly impressive were highly talented Ron Retich, impro-

vising on the violin and forming a dialogue with the dancers, and the two dancers who introduced themselves on stage as Margalit and Yolanda. The latter confined most of her solos to a tin wash tub on wheels and ran through an intriguing range of emotions. But Margalit was by far the most sophisticated dancer. Her presence underlined the inexperience of the other dancers.

Kremsky intended to use the interdisciplinary interaction to point out the complexity of the male-female experience and perhaps to enlighten the issue through a new perspective. As a modest experiment, it had some merits; as a ripe and resolved work, it still has a long way to go.

## Applause for the 50th - abroad

By HELEN KAYE

Israel's jubilee celebrations are having more success abroad than they are here. Not surprisingly, part of that success is due to the Batsheva Dance Company and to the Itim Ensemble, both of which performed at Washington's Kennedy Center in the jubilee series of performances called

The Art of the State.

Batsheva won raves for Ohad Naharin's *Anaphase*, while Itim received praise for the power and sophistication of Rina Yerushalmi's *Vayomer Vayelech*. Meanwhile in Germany, the Cameri production of Edna Mazia's *A Family Story* has received warm receptions in Bonn, Weimar, and Heidelberg (where the play's action starts).

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## AMY'S VIEW

Tuesday, March 31, 1998 at 8.30 p.m.

A British play written by one of the famous writers in England - David Hare.

The action is spread over a period of 17 years, from 1979 to present day, and mainly takes place in the country cottage belonging to Esme, a famous actress, and Evelyn, her late husband's mother.

"I've seen this play at the National Theatre in London, with Judi Dench in the leading role. The Israeli production is better, warmer and more exciting." (Michael Handelsaltz - Ha'aretz)  
"The magic is revealed through convincing performances... manages to charm, without showing the sweat." The acting is good, Shiri Golan has a great deal of power, Gil Frank is excellent, Alex Ansky molds the role well and Eliseva Michael and Alon Neuman provide good performances... the jewel in the crown is "Jetta Monte" (Shosh Weitz - Yedioth Aharonot)

## Murder

Saturday, April 4, 1998 at 8.00 p.m. with simultaneous translation into English  
A new play by Hanoch Levine.

Written during the violent events in the aftermath of the controversial opening of the Tunnel in Jerusalem. **MURDER** is a sharp, penetrating, heart-wrenching, merciless look into the human toll extracted by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As murder gives way to murder, it is the innocent on both sides who are the victims.

"A play that must be seen" (Michael Handelsaltz - Ha'aretz)

"An obligatory play" (Elyakim Yaron-Ma'ariv)

(Length of performance approx. 80min - no interval)

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See it in HEBREW...  
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## Top 10 TV Shows

By HELEN KAYE

The weekly TV ratings from the Israel Audience Research Board are computer-compiled automatically by reviewing data from the viewing habits of 385 households throughout the country. They replace the telephone polls which Channels 1 and 2 conducted monthly. The data are recorded

via Peoplemeters connected to the families' TVs and transferred to a central computer. The shows are all prime time. Below are the ARBs for March 22-28.

1. Miss Israel pageant. Tuesday, Channel 2, 47.2%
2. Ramat Aviv Gimel. Wednesday, Channel 2, 32.6%
3. Dan Shilon Live. Tuesday, Channel 2, 31.8%
4. Focus - Rafi Ginar. Saturday, Channel 2, 31.8%

5. Tazpan. Saturday, Channel 2, 31%
6. Hartzfufim. Wednesday, Channel 2, 27.9%
7. Channel 2 news. Sunday - Tuesday, 26.8% (average)
8. Only in Israel. Thursday, Channel 2, 26.8%
9. First in Entertainment. Monday, Channel 2, 26.5%
10. Shemesh. Thursday, Channel 2, 25.4%



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## Amnesty absurdities

As one of its last acts before ending its winter session, the Knesset gave the nation a 50th anniversary present — it defeated three proposals for a general pardon intended to honor the nation's jubilee. Nor does the good news stop there: Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, evidently seeking to reassure the public, stated Sunday he opposes granting pardons to murderers, rapists, domestic abusers, or drug dealers.

Nonetheless, President Ezer Weizman has pledged to use his pardon authority more generously during the jubilee year. Now the public waits, like a defendant awaiting sentence, for the announcement of what sort of criminals will be released as part of Weizman's celebratory expensiveness.

Within a month, a committee of government experts, chaired by former state attorney Yona Blattman, will decide what criteria to recommend to Weizman for the jubilee pardons. Reports are already circulating that Weizman will likely issue 800 to 1,000 pardons, some of which will be for "minor" traffic offenses for which driving licenses were revoked.

The message is: There is no need to be alarmed. "Real" criminals will remain behind bars. You might think twice, however, before venturing out in your car during the jubilee, because drivers whose licenses have just been returned will be out there celebrating with you.

No one would consider pardoning someone who had been convicted for repeatedly waving around loaded weapons, and who had even shot people as a result of reckless behavior. Regardless of any sentiments of mercy, public safety would not permit such a pardon. Yet somehow reckless drivers who have caused numerous accidents and have finally had their licenses taken away are not considered dangerous menaces to society.

In fact, researchers in road safety have shown that suspension of licenses for serious traffic offenses, particularly in the case of young drivers, is less a matter of punishment than of accident prevention. Given this, it is hard to imagine that a civilized society, that has lost more of its citizens on its roads than in all the wars for its survival, would release its independence by returning a license to even a single reckless driver.

In 1997, Weizman issued 442 pardons, 77 of which involved releasing or reducing the sentence of criminals serving time in prison. Many of the remaining pardons were reductions in fines for traffic violations. But 17 involved shortening long, usually multi-year, court-imposed suspensions of driver's licenses, presumably for serious and repeated traffic viola-

tions. That was a normal year, and perhaps the president had good reasons for reducing these sentences after individual and exhaustive reviews. In this jubilee year, a general pardon has, thankfully, been ruled out, but Weizman has pledged to substantially increase the number of "individual" pardons.

The fact that the pardons are individual does have the effect of ruling out one fear associated with the jubilee, that indicted high-profile politicians and other white-collar cases on the court dockets would benefit from a sweeping pardon. The prospect of the well heeled and connected getting off the hook, supposedly in the context of showing mercy for less fortunate criminals, was the aspect of the proposed jubilee pardon that smacked most of officially sanctioned corruption.

But even if individual pardons are in principle less of a direct insult to the justice system and the rule of law, a mass of individual pardons could still endanger the public. Already, the signal is being sent that traffic offenses, including serious ones, are not considered dangerous crimes. This sort of signal could add to the problem highlighted by organizations that monitor road safety, who claim that the courts are already too reluctant to take the step of suspending licenses.

The government is understandably quick to reassure the public that murderers will not be released as a particularly masochistic form of national celebration. But if large numbers of licenses are returned to bad drivers, the national death toll could rise just as surely as if murderers were released from prison. In 1997, over 500 Israelis lost their lives on the country's roads. Prematurely returning suspended licenses can only undermine any serious effort toward reducing this unacceptable toll.

When asked privately for a judicial justification for increasing the numbers of pardons on the state's 50th anniversary, as opposed to the 49th or the 51st, the only thing government experts can do is shrug and blame it on the "public expectations" for the jubilee year. It is unclear where, outside of the close proximity of the Knesset, a groundswell of support for jubilee pardons exists. Surely the public, even if it supports the idea of correcting mistakes made by the judicial system in principle, would be against pardons that increase crime or the carnage on the roads. It is the public interest that should be in the forefront of the minds of the Blattman Commission members, not an arbitrary target for increasing pardons in the jubilee year.

HELLO, RITA!

At last, a problem I can solve



## The truth in 'T'kuma'

RUBY RIVLIN

In recent weeks, the public controversy surrounding the 'T'kuma television series has escalated. The controversy began with the installments describing the tragedy that the Palestinians brought upon themselves during the War of Independence, and its peak (so far) was reached in the installment about the Palestinians living inside the Green Line.

These are the million Arabs who we have called, for half a century, "Israeli Arabs," perhaps in the hope that the artificial distinction, produced by the 1949 Rhodes Agreements at the end of the bloody War of Independence, would become an ethnic reality.

In recent years, Israelis — or perhaps one should say Israeli Jews — have finally started to realize that the vast majority of Israeli Arabs see themselves as Palestinians in every way. The Green Line, which separates the two major parts of the Palestinian people, means nothing to them.

In recent weeks we have witnessed a public reawakening among Israeli Arabs, as a reaction to the grandiose plans for the celebration of Israel's jubilee. Israeli Arabs are formulating the way in which they will mark the half-century since the establishment of the state, or from their point of view, since the Palestinian tragedy.

Many Jewish Israelis are astounded by the naked truth to which they are being exposed, perhaps for the first time. Many of them are reacting angrily, saying that this is ingratitude to the State of Israel which gave its Arab minority full rights and equality despite the residues of the past.

At this point, 'T'kuma enters the picture, and places before the "Israeli Jews" a picture reflecting the Palestinian tragedy with full force. Harsh pictures of hundreds of thousands of refugees, exiled from their villages and making way for new Israeli settlements which will wipe out all traces of their former existence.

The series displays before the "Israeli Jews" a truth they had never encountered: No, the Israeli Arabs do not identify with the Zionist ethos; No, the Israeli Arabs do not always feel fortu-

nate and are not grateful to the State of Israel for awarding them equal rights. In fact, they would prefer to be called "Palestinians." Surprise, surprise.

It is very important that, in Israel of 1998, young people learn about the military government imposed on the Arabs of Galilee until the

**Government intervention in — or worse, censorship of — public TV is not a panacea for the discomfort we feel when we see these harsh pictures**

end of the Sixties. It is also important that Israeli youth be exposed to pictures of columns of refugees fleeing in fear of the IDF in the War of Independence. It is essential that pupils understand the strength of the feelings of the Palestinians and their dream of returning to Haifa, Acre, and Safed.

But Israeli youth must know that the Palestinian refugees intend to return to those places instead of us. If we do not recognize things as they are, we will never be able to get to the roots of the dispute.

The pathetic attempts of certain politicians to hide the issues, to take 'T'kuma off the air, or to apply censorship to a historical TV series of this kind, do not serve their own interests. Moreover, these efforts are likely to cause Israeli youth, exposed to such things for the first time, to feel that Israel has dark chapters in its history that it should hide.

It is not easy to look at the pictures of the refugees fleeing to the east; it is not pleasant to hear about the destruction of their villages and towns. It is difficult to digest such things, particularly after half a century in which we

have been brought up to believe that we are right, that we are more moral, that we always desired peace.

On the other hand, there is no justification for the voices, coming from the political camp to which I belong, raised against 'T'kuma. The recognition of the Palestinian tragedy — and it is a real tragedy — does not lessen Israel's moral stability.

The problem is that, in the dichotomy in which we are living, recognition of the justice of the Palestinians implies upsetting the moral basis on which the State of Israel was established. This kind of recognition is a luxury which only liberal Americans can afford, 150 years after the last Indian tribes ceased to pose a threat to the existence of the United States.

But recognition of the Palestinian tragedy does not mean recognition of the justice of the Palestinian position. This tragedy, it should be remembered and emphasized, particularly after the harsh pictures shown by 'T'kuma, was brought upon the Palestinians by their leaders and themselves.

We must remember that we agreed to divide the land with the Palestinians. The pictures of exile and destruction displayed on the TV screen need not have taken place.

It is not 'T'kuma's job to balance, as it were, the story of the Palestinian defeat by a description of a parallel Israeli tragedy. Government intervention in — or worse, censorship of — public TV is not a panacea for the discomfort we feel when we see these harsh pictures. Citizens of a democratic country do not need remedies of this kind or the protection of an omniscient government against exposure to reality. However, Israeli youth needs better history education to give it tools to understand its history.

If young Israelis view the harsh installments of 'T'kuma while understanding the historical context in which the events took place, they will be able to reach the conclusion that we are not so bad after all.

The writer is a Likud MK.

## The Arab bluff

EVELYN GORDON

Israel's citizens rather than its own. Nor is Lebanon alone in this stand. Last week, the Arab League backed Lebanon's position regarding the deployment of its army, and said it "rejects the Israeli initiative pertaining to this issue."

It is hard to understand why the Arab world thinks Israel's demand is unreasonable. This is a much more minimalist position than Israel has ever taken in the past. It is not even demanding a peace treaty or diplomatic relations in exchange for its withdrawal. All it wants is an assurance that its concession will not give rise to unending terror attacks along its northern border. If the Arab world is truly interested in peace, is this too much to ask?

Even harder to understand, however, is why Lebanon thinks restraining Hizbullah attacks on Israel following an Israeli withdrawal would be contrary to its own interests.

Currently, the strategic value of these attacks is obvious: They are an excellent way of pressuring Israel to leave the security zone. If Israel leaves, however, Hizbullah attacks would promptly become a liability rather than an asset. At the very least, they would provoke retaliatory Israeli air strikes which would endanger Lebanese citizens; at worst, they could provoke another full-scale Israeli invasion of south Lebanon.

THE unfortunate conclusion is that allowing Hizbullah's war on Israel to continue is much more important to both Lebanon and the Arab League than their stated goal of restoring Arab sovereignty to south Lebanon. If shutting down this war is the price of Israel's withdrawal, the Arab world is not

willing to make a deal.

For years, the Arabs have been claiming that Israel's occupation of Arab lands is their sole reason for the 50-year state of war in the Middle East. Over and over, they have said that once these lands are returned, they would be willing to make peace.

Yet Israel has finally called the Arabs' bluff by caving in and offering a unilateral withdrawal from one of these lands — and even this has proven not to be enough. For many of these countries, it seems, the issue was never really land. The real priority is the war against the Zionist enemy.

Western diplomats, in contrast, have always taken Arab assertions about the land-for-peace equation at face value. As a result, they were initially receptive to Israel's Lebanon proposal. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, for instance, welcomed the idea during his visit last week, and said he would be happy to help Israel work out the details of a withdrawal with Lebanon.

The unequivocal negative response from Lebanon and the Arab League, however, forces the West to make a choice. One option is the time-honored route of closing its eyes to Arab cynicism and pressuring Israel to drop its demands. The other option is to finally take a good hard look at what the Arabs' land-for-peace rhetoric really means.

There will never be a clearer statement than those made by the Arab world on Lebanon last week about where "land" and "peace" really sit on many Arab countries' priority lists. It is about time for the West to wake up to this fact.

The writer comments on current affairs.

## Too little

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The Vatican's well-meaning report on the silence of the Catholic Church during the Holocaust misses the point. It was not only the silence of the church — and especially of Pope Pius XII — which contributed to the enormous death toll. It was the speech of the church — its rabidly antisemitic teachings over the centuries — which explains why so many practicing Catholics throughout Europe eagerly played roles in slaughtering Jewish babies, old people, women and men.

The report tries to distance the Catholic Church from the racial theories that guided Nazism by distinguishing between racial "antisemitism," of which it pleads innocent, and religious "anti-Judaism," of which it acknowledges guilt.

But this highly technical distinction ignores the reality that it was the anti-Jewish teachings of the Catholic Church that made it easier for Catholic Nazis to dehumanize their Jewish victims.

Catholics in Poland, in the Baltics, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia, in France, in Austria and in Germany had been taught that Jews deserved to suffer for their killing and rejection of Jesus. It is not surprising that in Catholic areas of Europe — with some important exceptions — collaboration with the Nazis was high.

What is surprising is that so many individual Catholics rejected these teachings and came to the rescue of Jews. It is these righteous Catholics, and not the cautious Pope Pius XII, who should be praised for their courage and their commitment to the true virtues of Catholicism.

It is easy to acknowledge, in an abstract way, that the church did not do all it could. What is difficult is to name names and to condemn specific villains, while praising specific heroes. But this report lacked the courage to condemn even current priests and

### The Vatican report on the Shoah misses the point

cardinals who continue to teach a theology of antisemitism.

CONSIDER, for example, the primate of Poland, Cardinal Joseph Glemp, who as recently as 1989 delivered an antisemitic tirade to 150,000 Polish Catholics that would have made Hitler cheer. He accused "the Jews" of "spreading communism" and "plying (Polish) peasants with alcohol," as well as creating antisemitism. He has never been publicly condemned by the Vatican, and still serves in the College of Cardinals.

More recently Father Henryk Jankowski, a prominent Polish priest, blamed World War II on "Jewish greed" and equated the Star of David with the Nazi swastika and the Communist hammer and sickle. A prominent French priest, Abbe Pierre, endorsed a book denying the Holocaust.

All of this was part of a long tradition which preceded and followed the Holocaust. Each of Poland's postwar primates has been an acknowledged antisemite. Cardinal Hlond blamed the Kielce massacre — in which Polish Catholics murdered more than 40 Jews after the Nazis surrendered — on "the Jews," who, he said, were "greedy and immoral."

Cardinal Wyszyński, before he was named primate, said it was still "uncertain" whether it was part of the Jewish religion to murder Christian children for the ritual use of their blood. Despite this obscenity, he was promoted. And then, of course, there was the notorious Slovakian Monsignor Josef Tiso, who actively collaborated with Hitler's policy of genocide.

These and other cases were not discussed in the report. Current antisemitic priests have not been removed. Such courageous actions would have created much more controversy than a bland abstract acknowledgment of past inaction.

To his credit, the pope himself has been much more forthright in his condemnation of the church's long history of antisemitism. This great pope has done more to condemn antisemitism than nearly all of the prior popes combined, but the Vatican bureaucracy has been far too cautious in implementing the pontiff's teachings. The next step must be to explicitly condemn by name those priests, bishops, cardinals and popes who tarnished the teachings of Jesus by providing a theological justification for genocide.

At the same time, the Vatican should praise by name those many Catholics who risked their lives to protect Jews. Only if the faithful know that church history will publicly judge them by name for their actions and inactions will they be influenced by the positive teaching of the great Pope John Paul II.

(United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THANKS, MAYOR OLMERT

Sir, — Recently my wife made me read Sam Orban's interesting article "Too good to be true?" (March 2) about the efficient mayor of Ra'anana whose activities made us envious of the residents of that city.

I had rung the municipality helpline four times about a hole in the road directly in front of our garage to no avail. During the intermission of the Daniel Barenboim concert at the Jerusalem Theater, I found myself next to our mayor. Ehud Olmert.

With the article in mind I introduced myself and told him the problem. Neither of us had a pen or paper but he said he would look into it. Needless to say, the following morning the job was done. We too have a mayor that cares.

Thank you, Ehud Olmert.

DR. CHAIM HEITNER

Jerusalem.

### NON-KOSHER MEAT

Sir, — One of the most idiotic laws is the recently enacted Meat Law banning the import of non-kosher meat.

Will it diminish the local consumption of non-kosher meat? Of course not. It will only increase the domestic production of such meat.

The law should be properly called "Sponsoring domestic production of non-kosher meat."

DR. JACOB ROSIN

Netanya.

### PALESTINIAN HATRED

Sir, — According to Michal Sela's Palestinian Press Review of March 16, Ali Khalili of al-Quds asked ironically (in connection with Barak's ill-timed statement concerning terrorism) whether nothing has changed in the Israeli vocabulary in the four years since the signing of the Oslo Agreement.

In return, I should like to ask Mr. Khalili what has changed in the Palestinian vocabulary since that date, with Yasser Arafat telling the public time and again that he looks to the day when Palestinian children will hoist the Palestinian flag over the mosques and churches of Jerusalem, the PA's paper al-Hayat al-Jadida accusing Prime Minister Netanyahu of reaping the hatred

he has sown and the Voice of Palestine inciting hatred of Israel on a daily basis.

It is no doubt high time to remind the Palestinians that the days of easy gains are over and that cheap propaganda is unlikely to cause the present government to cave in to their demands.

Ali Khalili is right however, saying that, in the years since the Oslo Accords, hatred only produced hatred on the other side. But it was Palestinian hatred of Israel that started the proceedings.

RUTH WILLERS

Middx., England.

### KOSHER RESTAURANT

Sir, — Stuart A. Cohen, in "A day at Tel Aviv University" (March 9), is so right in wondering why a restaurant in The Green House on the TA University campus is not kosher.

Several years ago — also naively believing a national university restaurant would be kosher and disappointed it wasn't — I tried to convince the president of this otherwise so wonderful university that it was most improper. It did not help then. Hopefully, Prof. Cohen's remarks will help now!

WERNER BACHMANN

Ra'anana.

### INHUMANE 'SPORT'

Sir, — I was disgusted and horrified by the picture and caption of a fist-fighting match printed on the back page of the March 19 edition. This gruesome picture was of one man actually killing another — that he died of his injuries only later is immaterial. It is sad that some people want to see this kind of thing. Am I to understand that the Post considers news about an inhumane "sport" as sports news that is fit to print? What will be next in the Post, cockfighting results?

ELISABETH ROBERTS

Tel Aviv.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

63 years ago: On March 31, 1933, The Palestine Post discussed, in a leading article, the problems arising from the proposed anti-German boycott by Jews worldwide which had provoked a quick return from the Nazis aimed at German Jews, both

professional and business class. 50 years ago: On March 31, 1948, The Jerusalem Post reported from Lake Success that while the US continued to press for a truce and a special UN Assembly and Trusteeship, the Soviet delegate to the UN Andrei Gromyko

announced that Soviet Russia still adhered to the decision made by the UN General Assembly on November 29 for partition and charged certain wavering powers to be motivated by self-interest.

Alexander Zvielli

27 March 1998





Freij with Yitzhak Rabin, 1985. He called the prime minister's assassination "a savage crime committed by a fanatic." (David Rubinger)

## Voice of moderation

In an unforgiving land, even in the worst of times, Elias Freij continued to insist that Jews and Arabs would, in the end, live in peace.

The former mayor of Bethlehem, who died in Amman on Sunday at age 80, was virtually the sole voice of moderation emanating from the Palestinian camp for many years, including the years of intifada.

"My views have been consistent," he said in an interview several years ago. "Arabs and Jews are destined to live together in this country. We cannot continue to live as enemies and fight each other forever."

The Vatican on the Sea misses them

Freij was a short, unimposing man with a soft voice and natural courtliness that some might have mistaken for deference. He did not cut the figure of a hero either in his appearance or in his moderate statements. Arab militants, in fact, issued death threats against him on the grounds that he was a Palestinian Uncle Tom who consorted with the enemy. They smashed the windshield of his car and painted "traitor" on the outside walls of his home.

However, Arab historians may in time recognize him as one of the outstanding Palestinian heroes of this period.

Defying the death threats was the least of it. Freij's heroism lay in having the courage to rise above the fray, to see in his presumed oppressor not a demon, but a rational being with recognizable motives and to believe it possible, despite the blows and humiliations of daily life, to engage him eventually in reasoned discourse.

He was an Arab patriot whose vision of peace never involved ceding land to Israel or accepting the idea of autonomy instead of statehood.

In 1982, after Israel's invasion of Lebanon, Freij attacked Yasser Arafat and the Arab world for waging fruitless wars and issuing

Elias Freij saw his 'oppressor' not as a demon but as a rational being with recognizable motives and believed peace was possible.

Abraham Rabinovich remembers the former mayor of Bethlehem, who died this week

hollow slogans. "Had the Arabs challenged Israel for peace and not for war many years ago, the outcome may have been more promising," he said.

When Anwar Sadat dared make such a challenge, he noted, the Arab world turned its back on him. Freij applauded Arafat six years later when the PLO leader declared his readiness for peace with Israel.

Always considered loyal to Jordan's King Hussein, Freij nevertheless declared that the PLO was the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He served as tourism minister in the Palestinian cabinet.

Although he never mastered Hebrew, Freij closely followed the Israeli political scene and admired some of its players, particularly Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. He was intrigued by Kollek's idea of raising funds for his municipality abroad through the Jerusalem Foundation which he had established. Freij tried to emulate this with a Bethlehem Foundation, but it had only limited success in the US.

During a conversation with this reporter several years ago, Freij remarked that he had had better success raising funds for his hand-some new city hall in one of the Gulf states without the formalities of a foundation.

After initial phone contacts, he had flown to the Gulf and was put up in an opulent hotel, where he

was told to wait. After several days in which he hardly strayed from the lobby, someone appeared with a sackful of money for the new building and he boarded the next plane home.

When Kollek was defeated in the 'last' municipal elections in 1993, Freij was upset. "I believe the Israeli electorate was unfair to Teddy," he said. "He has done more for Jerusalem than any other mayor in history."

Noting that the main reason for Kollek's defeat was his age — then 82 — Freij, who was himself 75, noted that China's leaders were much older. "And they're running a country of 1.2 billion people." He said he didn't "have the heart" to call Kollek after his defeat.

Yesterday, Kollek praised Freij, whom he termed "a good friend." Speaking from the offices of the Jerusalem Foundation, where he is still active, Kollek said: "Whatever he did was for the benefit of his city, Bethlehem. We kept contact through all the difficult times."

Freij was born in Bethlehem into a Greek Orthodox family which traced its ancestry in the city back some five centuries. He graduated from the Bishop Gobat School on Jerusalem's Mount Zion, where his teachers were British, and entered the family business, eventually operating several souvenir shops in

Bethlehem.

He was serving as head of the city's chamber of commerce and was a member of the city council when the then mayor of Bethlehem died in 1972. He was chosen by fellow council members as the successor, and won the race for mayor in 1976, the last year municipal elections were held in the West Bank under Israeli rule.

The fact that Freij and most of the council members were Christian was an anomaly in a city which had long since acquired a Moslem majority. However, it lent substance to the image of Bethlehem as a Christian city, which was important for Christian pilgrimage, a mainstay of the city's economy.

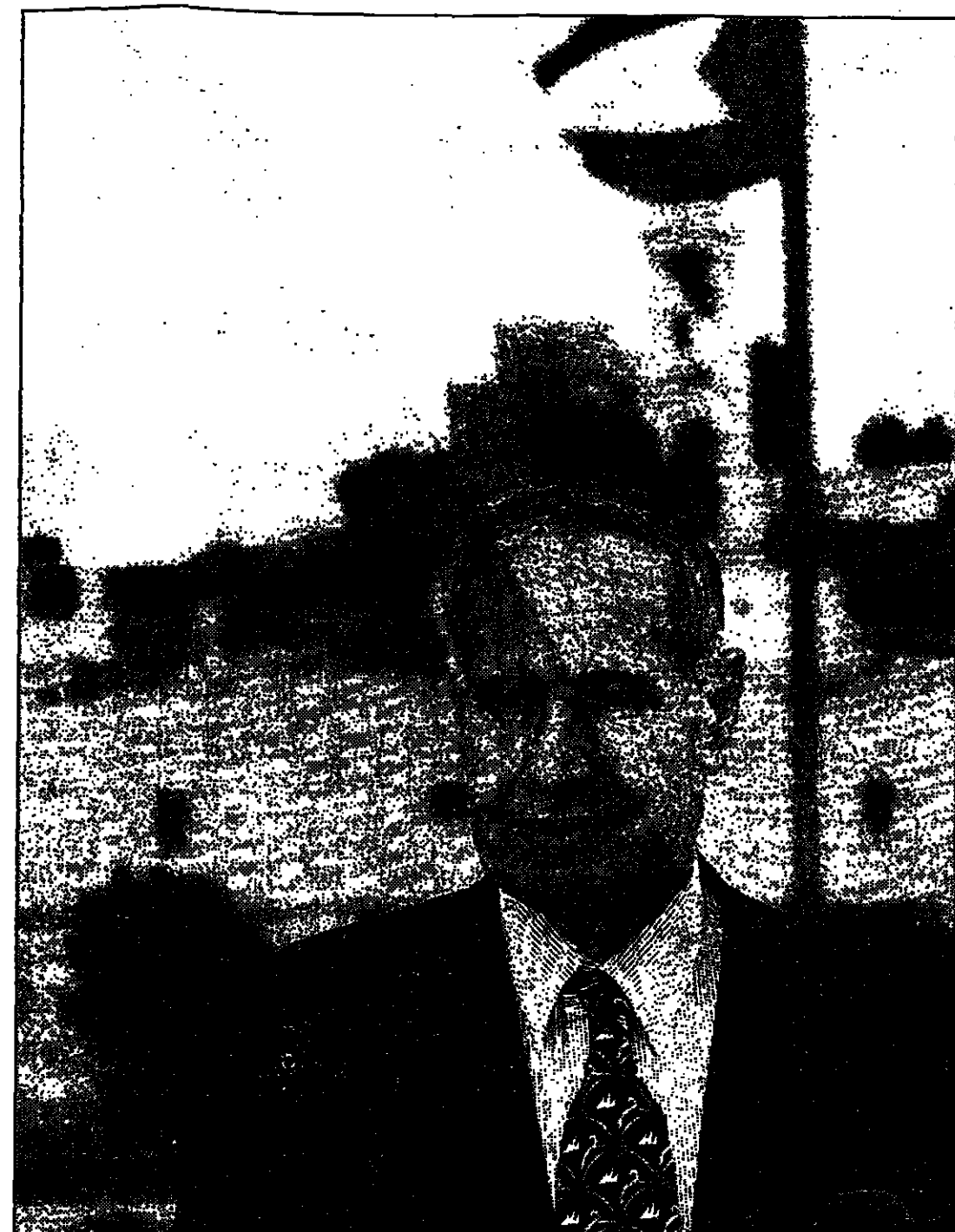
Freij vigorously opposed the idea of physical separation between Israel and a Palestinian entity, as proposed by many Israelis and Palestinians, in part at least because of the havoc he saw this playing with tourism. Jerusalem and Bethlehem constituted a single complex, he said; it would discourage tourism if people had to cross a border to get from one to the other. Instead, he advocated a Benelux-style confederation embracing Israel, Jordan and a Palestinian state.

Beset by ill health, Freij stepped down as mayor last year. He died in hospital of kidney and heart failure after being admitted a week earlier for dialysis treatment. He is survived by his wife, Victoria, and six children: George, Mike, Raja, Marina, Norma and Nada.

THIS REPORTER would usually call on Freij during the Christmas season, as much for a boost of optimism and sanity as for a story.

At our last meeting two years ago he seemed frail, but was as upbeat as ever. He had good reason to be. The Oslo Accords had been signed and the peace process was in progress.

"I envision full normalization, open borders, free movement of



'Arabs and Jews are destined to live together in this country. We cannot continue to live as enemies and fight each other forever.' (David Rubinger)



Not just mayors, but friends: 'We kept contact through all the difficult times,' said Teddy Kollek (left). (Israel Sun)

people, free trade and association," he said.

He talked about his youth. Ever since he was a boy, he said, he knew he would be mayor. The position had been held by members of his family over many years.

He looked forward to the imminent transfer of the city to the Palestinian Authority, and said his first priority would be to add 2,000

hotel rooms to the existing 400.

He called the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, "a savage crime committed by a fanatic." Both sides had their extremists, he said, but the peace process would prevail.

Israelis and Palestinians were not born to be enemies, Freij said. "We complement each other. Of course the rich brother, the big and strong brother, has to be more

open-minded and flexible with his weaker brother."

He had never believed, he said, that there would be a military solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "In the end," he said, "logic and common sense prevailed."

The funeral is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. today at the cemetery near the Church of the Nativity.

**book department**

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**DRIVE CAREFULLY**

### MISSIONARY

Continued from Page 1

"Recalling the grim events preceding Israel's rebirth, we are sensitive to their memories, hurts, and feelings, even as we pursue our religious callings," the statement says.

In addition, the statement also specifically undertakes not to exploit economic or other distress in order to promote proselytism. Christian spokesmen have steadfastly maintained that they always

have opposed any attempts to take advantage of social or economic circumstances to persuade individuals to change their faith.

"Nor will we exploit, for the benefit of our denominational interests, such economic, social or psychological needs as may emerge," the statement indicates.

"This is better than a law," Zivli told the Associated Press. "This is a very big accomplishment."

Gafni said that he had spoken to Zivli about it and showed him the statement. But Gafni added that the statement did not solve any-

thing. "I don't need an agreement, I need to solve the problem," he said. He added that he is not sure that all the groups which engage in missionary activity are a party to the agreement.

Meanwhile, MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) is preparing a new anti-missionary bill that would impose a three-year prison sentence and a NIS 50,000 fine on "anyone who exhorts another to change his religion."

The agreement was reached through the mediation of Joseph Alpher, director of the American

Jewish Committee's Israel office. Hillel Kuntler adds from Washington:

Larry Ehrlich, the US director of Bridges for Peace, said many Christian groups were dismayed by the legislation, but said he thinks the looming deal is good for both sides.

Ehrlich said he understands why Israel is wary of allowing missionary activity and stated that most of the Christian groups that Bridges for Peace deals with in Israel "probably signed onto this statement."

### ROSS

Continued from Page 1

"The thing that caused the process to get stuck was the Palestinians' failure to fulfill their commitments," he said.

As a result of "the many hours" of discussion with Ross and the "creative" ideas he introduced, the chance of an arrangement being worked out became less dim than many people think," he said.

He doubted that the positions outlined to Ross would cause "a revolt" in Netanyahu's coalition government.

Margot Dudkevitch adds: Palestinians blamed Israel for preventing progress, because of its failure to comply with the signed accords. They demanded that the US take a more assertive role and force Israel to implement the accords.

Palestinian officials declared, however, that Arafat may agree to take part in an international summit in Washington that was proposed by the US to discuss final-status negotiations. Arafat met with Mubarak yesterday and updated him on his talks with Ross, before embarking on a two-day visit to Holland.

Following his meeting with Ross in Gaza on Sunday, Arafat refused to divulge details, but said he appreciated the American's efforts.

Hillel Kuntler and Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

### ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

Michael Berenbaum, the former project director of the US museum and now the president of Steven

Spiegelberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in Los Angeles, said Arafat's visit can be a very positive step. "The more he understands Jewish anguish, the more he can understand how much he has to assure the Jewish people

regarding issues of security," Berenbaum said. "Equally important, in politics, gesture is substance. And this gesture can accidentally turn out to be substantive."

Lehrman said the lesson to be learned from Arafat's visit to the

building in ruins. He was taken by intelligence officials for questioning at the local headquarters and released early yesterday morning. He told them that below his apartment was a carpenter's shop and a garage. Someone had rented the garage about a month ago, but he had never seen anyone inside.

Nothing was left of the garage or carpentry workshop except crooked concrete pillars and protruding metal rods that once joined the walls.

Mubarak said he was at his family's home when neighbors told him there had been an explosion, apparently from a gas leak. He arrived to find the apartment

sifted through the debris. 25-year-old Ihab Mubarak began piling what was left of his possessions onto a van.

Last November, Mubarak had rented the flat above the garage where the blast took place, and a week ago began moving in his possessions in preparation for the arrival of his future bride.

Mubarak said he was at his family's home when neighbors told him there had been an explosion, apparently from a gas leak. He arrived to find the apartment

They claimed he had climbed onto the roof of the building to get a better view of the site when the roof collapsed.

Shortly after the blast, Palestinian officials attempted to describe the incident as criminally motivated and said it had been caused by a gas canister exploding. They said they found the burned body of a man in the car and said a second person had been injured and died yesterday morning in the hospital.

Security guards at the site said an intelligence official had died yesterday morning from injuries he sustained shortly after the blast.

As Palestinian security officials



## Holiday hysteria

This is the story of how I strolled into the supermarket last week to pick up a few basic food items and staggered out loaded down with bags containing more than NIS 600 worth of products.

How did it happen? I guess I fell victim to the clever commercial conspiracy I'll call Holiday Hysteria - in this case, of course, the holiday is Pessah.

When I chose to go to a major supermarket instead of the local grocer I had completely forgotten that entering a major shopping zone within a month of any serious holiday warps your perspective and throws you into a pointless panic. What you find is an organized campaign which screams: "Hurry up and buy - before it's too late!"

Naturally, the first thing that confronted me as I innocently entered the supermarket was a towering aisle approximately the size of the Great Wall of China stacked with cleaning products. The effect was impressive. There might as well have been someone standing there with a megaphone shouting: "What are you waiting for, you

allowed for preparing for a holiday. It should be proportional to the actual length of the holiday itself. Just as the "Christmas season" began in mid-November in the Old Country, our holiday headache time is beginning earlier and earlier. As a result, it seems the holidays are beginning to merge.

### Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

FOR SOME reason, this year seems more holiday-ridden than most. Not only was there a month-long run-up to Purim, but the celebration just didn't seem to end. The official festivities began on Tuesday, ran through the actual holidays on Thursday and Friday, and yet, on Saturday, there were still plenty of kids running around in their costumes.

Some of us parents began to believe we were raising a bunch of Ninja Turtles, Dalmatians and Pooh Bears instead of human children.

We had hardly packed away the Purim costumes before we were bombarded by messages from our friendly retailers that it was time for the annual cook and scrub-fest that we call Pessah, a holiday falsely billed as celebrating freedom from slavery. (Ask any mother trying

**I had forgotten: Entering a major shopping zone within a month of any serious holiday warps your perspective and throws you into pointless panic**

slob? Haven't you started to scrub down your house yet?"

In a Pavlovian reaction I started grabbing detergents, soaps, powders, and cleansers off the shelves, as if purchasing the products would somehow magically cleanse my conscience, if not my actual house.

Then, muscles sore from lifting all those jumbo-sized containers, I moved on to the next aisle. Remembering that, after Pessah had come in to buy food.

Heading toward the bakery, I reached for one of the items I had come in to buy - fresh-baked bread to go with dinner.

But then my eye caught sight of piles of boxes of matzot, kosher-for-Pessah cakes, biscuits and mixes - a nice selection. I started to worry that if I waited, I would be stuck eating coconut macaroons all week. And that did I want to bring bread into the house for any way? It would just create more crumbs for me to clean up.

So I forgot about the bread, forgot that there was more than two weeks until the holiday actually started, and started loading my cart with expensive Pessah products.

I think the Knesset should pass a law mandating the time

to clean the crumbs out of her house with her kids underfoot - home for the Pessah vacation that begins so inconveniently the week before the holiday - if she feels liberated!

And when we've just barely caught our breath from Pessah, it will be time for the special expanded two-day Independence Day marathon.

Don't get me wrong, I love to celebrate as much as the next person. But all this partying is becoming a bit much, particularly when one is trying to figure out how to squeeze a little bit of actual everyday work in between the festivities.

Maybe we should just let everyone off the hook - declare these endless months of holidays one big Springfest and forget about work altogether. The holidays should end just in time for the schools' summer vacation.

This is a time when few parents of small children manage to do anything productive anyway, so we can hold off on going back to work. Then, we might as well hang on through the next round of holidays in September.

Come October, we can restart the economy once more. We should be able to get a little bit of work done before Hanukka.



Sara Reynolds doing assembly work at Metro: She's been fascinated by mechanical things since she was a toddler. (Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post)

## The top mechanics who are women

By ALICE RED

They're an elite group - Metro's own versions of Rosie the Riveter, the World War II heroine of the formerly all-male workplace.

Six female mechanics help maintain 1,400-pound rail car motors, six-ton wheel assemblies and a lot of other heavy equipment that keeps Metro on its tracks. Most of them chose the nontraditional field because they loved the work and saw it as a well-paying stepping-stone to opportunity.

"I'd see my sisters coming home from their secretarial jobs, looking very nice but complaining about their jobs and their pay," said Sandra Barton, 37. She grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland, learned her trade working on C-5 cargo planes in the Air Force and has been working for Metro for 14 years.

Barton and other top-ranked mechanics at Metro make \$45,000 a year in base pay, with opportunities for more income for overtime and shift work, according to Metro officials.

As the agency tries to beef up its supervisory ranks with women - who number 1,446 in a work force of 8,173 - these mechanics have a chance to compete for six open manager's positions in the rail maintenance division. Five of them are among the 10 applicants so far, said Lemmel M. Proctor, Metro's chief of rail car maintenance and the women's boss.

Proctor said he has encouraged the women, all of whom he said are highly skilled mechanics, to go for the better jobs because they can improve things for all female Metro workers. "I've said, 'Let's step up and make things different in the workplace,'" Proctor said.

On a recent morning, mechanic Sarah Reynolds, 45, was bending over a wheel assembly that sat on the floor, detached from its moorings under a nearby rail car, one of about 20 being overhauled in the cavernous, five-acre Brentwood Rail Yard in the District of Columbia, where all but one of the six women work.

Definitely wielding pneumatic tools, she quickly unscrewed the primary power cables, leaving them to dangle over the heavy metal assembly like large strands of spaghetti before she got into the

guts of the motor.

Reynolds, of Temple Hills, Md., says she has been fascinated with mechanical things since she was a toddler, sitting on her auto mechanic father's toolbox "and enjoying myself." But, like most girls 20 years ago, Reynolds was steered to typing. She took secretarial courses and went on to do clerical work.

"When the typewriter repairman came around, I was always more interested in how he was fixing my typewriter than in what I was typing," she said. For several years she worked at Washington government jobs, then decided to follow in her father's footsteps and learn to be a mechanic.

**"When the typewriter repairman came around, I was always more interested in how he was fixing my typewriter than in what I was typing."**

Wider Opportunities for Women, a Washington organization that trains women and helps them find well-paying jobs, often in nontraditional fields, gave her the rudiments of mechanical training. She learned the rest on the job, first in heating and air conditioning with Sears, Roebuck and then with Metro, where she has worked for 12 years.

Another graduate of Wider Opportunities for Women, now a top-level mechanic, is Sherri Sims, 37, who has been working for Metro for 12 years.

She started cleaning cars, worked her way into the mechanics program and, on the side, got her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in psychology and philosophy. At Proctor's urging she has applied

for a supervisor job.

SIMS, of Washington, and the other women at Brentwood are frank about the problems they faced, and still face, in an area where men are the vast majority of workers. At Brentwood there are 150 male mechanics.

"It was 'the typical thing, when you get to a new job,'" Barton said. "They'd make us do dirty jobs, like change the brake pads - stuff no one wanted to do. You get tried a lot. You have to prove yourself over and over again." Sexual harassment was not gone away, according to Sims, but she and other women know how to handle it better.

"Sexual harassment used to happen all the time. It was ongoing," Sims said. "It still exists - but I know how to deal with it. I let them know if it's too blatant. I have to say, 'This is not acceptable.'"

"Also, in the past I had to suffer retribution when I complained. Now I don't. They know that's against the rules."

Most of the female mechanics talk about harassment as a rude interruption of work they love. "The best part is troubleshooting problems," said Barton, of Oxon Hill, Md., describing her favorite part of the work. "You troubleshoot, and you take it all the way through, and you fix it. That's the best."

They all like the variety. "One day I may be working on motors and the next day installing carpet," Reynolds said.

All would like to see more women among their colleagues.

Reynolds heads a group of Washington area female mechanics called Women's Work Inc., formed a decade ago as a support network for women doing nontraditional jobs. Today, the group includes mechanics from Bell Atlantic and cable TV companies as well as Metro. They speak at high schools and at community groups recruiting girls for nontraditional work.

"I tell them there are advantages, like the money. It's much better than traditional jobs. And some mechanical work you can do at home," Reynolds said. "But the most important thing is doing something you really want to do." (The Washington Post)

## GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAYCANDIAN



Mickey Berkowitz, Moti Aroesti, Aulcie Perry and Tal Brody clown around in a sulphur pool at the Dead Sea. (Gideon Markovitz)

## Double take

"She's my friend," said an excited Reiko Uchiyama, organizer of Japanese arts and cultural events in Israel, as she watched Sukumari (Sugi) Sakow, wife of Constant Sakow, press attaché at the French embassy, strut her stuff at the Eti Kav fashion show at the Tel Aviv Hilton.

Designer Eli Kuberowski, who presented her new summer collection at the WIZO Herzliya Pituah-sponsored event on behalf of disadvantaged youth and families, thought the show would be more interesting if the professional models were joined by some of her regular clients and members of the International Women's Organization. An old hand at modeling for charity affairs, Maatchen Land, wife of the South African ambassador, was totally unrecognizable in a burgundy-hued pageboy wig. She described her turquoise-colored nails as "divine decadence."

Some of the other nonprofessional models included Sima Sheinman, Hani Shragar, Yifat Feldman, Miki Kantor and Tzipi Caspi. In the audience were Yuri Kawashima, wife of the Japanese ambassador, and Susana de Stiglich, wife of the Peruvian ambassador.

The show was the first professional engagement for new Miss Israel Lior Abergil since her crowning earlier in the week. It was amazing to see the astounding resemblance between her and TV personality and model Ruth Gonzales. The two, who were often on the runway at the same time, could pass for sisters.

INTERNATIONAL chess champion Gary Kasparov was in Israel last week to organize details for his salute-to-Israel match in May against the Israeli Olympic chess team, whose members will hopefully not be pawns to his knight.

Another celebrity visitor is noted Uruguayan baritone Carlos Cazzogio, who is being hosted at the B'nai B'rith World Center in Jerusalem. The winner of the Fraternidad Award, conferred annually by B'nai B'rith Uruguay on outstanding artists, Cazzogio gave a concert in Tel Aviv last Sunday and will sing in Jerusalem on April 2. Cazzogio will also perform at the Hebrew University tomorrow in honor of Uruguayan President Juan María Salguero, who will receive an honorary doctorate.

USUALLY in the news on account



Kasparov: Making plans (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

of her controversial radio and TV programs, Shelly Yehimovich has been making news of her own. Yehimovich has split up with Noam Ziv, the father of her two children, and has become romantically involved with TV host, musician and filmmaker Guy Meroz. Yehimovich, who eschewed a religious marriage ceremony when she and Ziv set up house on a permanent basis nine years ago, had a civil, contractual arrangement with him. Meroz has walked out on a 14-year marriage. He and his wife

Ruthie have three children, and as recently as a year ago Meroz was telling reporters that he could not imagine ever leaving her.

THE reception at the home of Greek ambassador Sotiris Varouxakis in honor of Greek National Day, but that didn't stop Honorary Hungarian Consul Yossi Weiss from doing business on behalf of Hungary. Weiss has major investments in Hungary. Also making a serious appearance at the reception was comedian Eli Yatzpan. But the guest who smiled the most was Nagwa Bassiouny, wife of the Egyptian ambassador, who received lots of compliments on her new hairstyle.

ALTHOUGH she footed the bill for the meal for the Herzog Hospital's



Gonzales and Abergil: Peas in a pod?

gala dinner at the Laromne Hotel, philanthropist and long-standing hospital supporter Lily Silver was among the last to be served.

Walters never had enough planes on their trays to serve the whole table, and often forgot to come back and make up for earlier omissions. Silver, who is a lady in every sense of the word, waited her turn without a fuss. Fortunately, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and Canadian Ambassador David Berger re-ceived somewhat better treatment.

Dinner chairperson Miriam Medina, commenting on the fact that Herzog Hospital is celebrating its 103rd anniversary, observed that there are not too many institutions in the country that are more than double the age of the state.



Yehimovich: Making news (Flash 90)

FORMER Maccabi Tel Aviv teammates Mickey Berkowitz, Moti Aroesti, Aulcie Perry and Tal Brody - who put Israel on the international basketball map - have remained friends and can still put a good spin on a ball, even though they are now well over 40.

Invited to the monthly Chef's Table gourmet dinner at the Dead Sea Hyatt Regency, they worked up an appetite with some clowning around in the sulphur pool.

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## Can I help keep my friend afloat?

Dear Ruthie, Should I butt out of my best friend's life? We became friends when we were both single and have stuck together through thick and thin. We were on the same positive track at first: We were young, had good jobs, and harbored high hopes of happiness in marriage. Then she got married and changed drastically.

As a single, she managed her money well and made sensible decisions. Now married to a man who won't turn the checkbook over to her, she is in dire financial straits.

My friend and her husband fight bitterly, even in public, but he won't agree to marriage counseling. More disturbing: She has developed such a severe anxiety disorder that she has to take tranquilizers every day. Whenever she and her husband go anywhere socially, she passes out on the couch from being so drugged. Even worse, the faith she used to have in God has been crushed.

I've tried to talk to her, but her mental state is so dysfunctional that she is suspicious, jealous, and irrational. Yet I am the one she runs to for comfort and understanding.

I really love her, and hate seeing her a shadow of her former self. Compounding it all is that, in sharp contrast to her life, mine is happy and secure. My husband is unselfish and easy to talk to.

I realize my friend is causing some of her own distress, but I can't reconcile myself to the fact that her life has turned out so differently from mine. I believe in the principle of reaping what you sow - but I didn't think we were sowing such different seeds.

What can I do? I'm willing to try to detach myself from her situation, but I feel responsible for her.

Concerned Friend  
Somewhere in the USA

Dear Concerned Friend,

The question of whether you should "butt out" is irrelevant. Your friend will not respond to external interference until she makes an internal decision to pull herself up from the depths you describe. Your feeling responsible for her, then, is not only pointless but detrimental.

One encouraging sign of her desire to change internally is the fact that she continues to seek advice and comfort from you. This indicates that although she hasn't yet mustered the strength to swim to shore, she has not let go of the life-raft. The best course for you is to continue to allow her to grab hold of you any time she uses her own strength to come up for air. Equally important: Don't be put off by any disagreeable response to your assistance, which can include your expressing the feeling that she is endangering herself.

Where the drugs are concerned: If she is in a cycle of emotional dysfunction and tranquilizer ingestion, she is in need of professional help, which you are not equipped to provide. In this kind of potentially dangerous situation, pressure from friends and family - both on her and on her husband - does not constitute meddling, but duty.

Your only mistake has been to assume that you and she were on the same "positive track" to begin with. For, while you may have been "sowing seeds" for a bright future, she was reaping a harvest which had been planted long before - one which led to her embarking upon a marriage which would divest her of all independence of thought and deed.

Letters should be addressed to "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: [ruthie@ipost.co.il](mailto:ruthie@ipost.co.il) ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *In Jerusalem and City Lights* on Fridays.)



Ruthie Blum

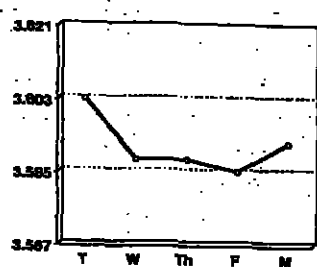
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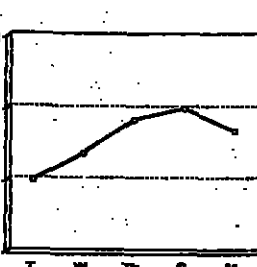
## MARKETS

in brief

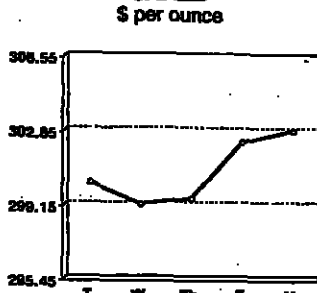
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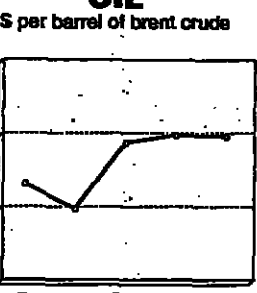
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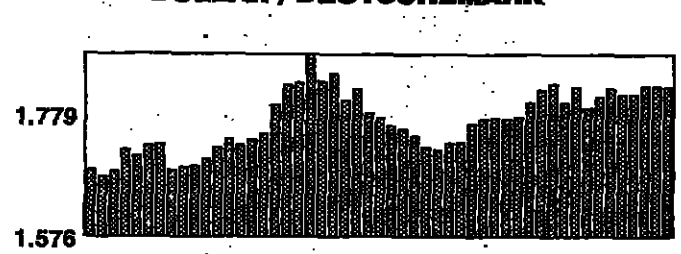
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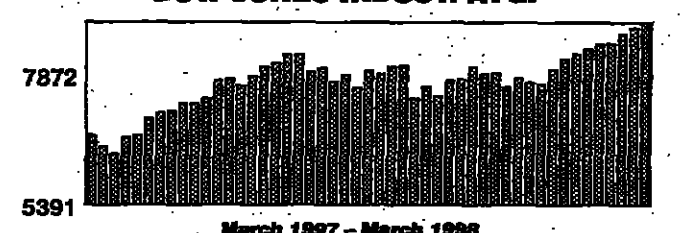
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### CBS data show mixed economic picture

The January and February main economic indicators, published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics, suggest a degree of renewed activity in retail sales, which increased 8 percent, and exports of goods, up 5%.

However, most other indicators did not show a rise, while there was a considerable decline in imports of investment goods (down 21% in February, after similar declines in December and January).

David Harris

### Givot Olam, Lapidot to drill for oil

Givot Olam Oil Exploration and Lapidot Oil Exploration will begin joint drilling activity near Kfar Sava in December, according to Givot Olam director Shmuel Becker. The Mege 3 site, on land owned by Moshav Elishama, could produce up to 44 million barrels, Texas oil consultant Forrest Garb said. The report also describes the project as high risk but with very high potential.

David Harris

### Israel Airports Authority

The Israel Airports Authority hereby announces that Tenders No. 4010044 and C4030048 which were published in The Jerusalem Post on March 30, 1998 are canceled.

### Publication of the Tenders:

Tender for Airside Terminal Building, Tender No. C4010044 and Tender for Landside Terminal Electrical Contract, Tender No. C4030048 which appear in today's paper are the valid announcements.

### Israel Airports Authority

#### Public Tender No. C4030048 Landside Terminal Electrical Contract

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests proposals from qualified Offerors meeting the below listed Pre-Conditions for the Construction of the Landside Terminal Electrical Work for the Ben Gurion 2000 Project. The Work of this Contract generally includes performing and managing the low voltage electrical distribution system, connections to electrical and mechanical panels and building lighting.

**Preliminary Mandatory Requirements:** This list summarizes the Pre-Conditions for an Offeror's Proposal to be considered by the IAA. Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFP is binding. This text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMP facsimile number stated below.

- Offeror's minimum annual revenue in each of the last (3) years was not less than the equivalent of Twelve Million U.S. Dollars (\$12 million).
- Offeror's records must indicate, for each of the last (3) years, the cost paid directly for labor for at least 100 persons (annual average).
- Offeror has a minimum of six (6) years of experience in Electrical Construction Work and completed:
  - at least three (3) low voltage projects of 4000A/400V within the last (3) years; or
  - at least two (2) non-residential electrical system projects of not less than 30,000 square meters, excluding warehouse and parking facilities, each within the last (3) years.
- Offeror shall meet the staffing and personnel experience requirements specified in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the registration requirements for a legal entity stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the State of Israel Contractors registration requirements stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the VAT and Israeli Tax Authorities' registration requirements stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall provide an unconditional Bank Guarantee in the amount of Three (3) Million New Israeli Shekels (NIS) valid for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the Proposal Submission Date, as specified in the RFP, Part B, Section 2 and Exhibit A.
- Joint ventures are allowed to participate in the Tender in accordance with the conditions stated in the RFP, Part B, Section 2 and Exhibit A.
- Offeror, if a foreign entity, shall additionally provide a Commercial Cooperation Undertaking Agreement.

#### Additional Preliminary Requirements:

\* Participation in the Tender Process is subject to the Offeror's satisfying all the Preliminary Requirements as detailed in the Mandatory Tender Regulations (1993), Clause 6(a), (1), (2) and (3).  
Proposal Documents: Tender Documents may be purchased until the Proposal Submission Date for the non-refundable amount of Thirteen Thousand New Israeli Shekels (13,000 NIS), including VAT.  
Tender Documents are available from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Office, located at Ben Gurion International Airport, starting March 30, 1998 between the hours of 8:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Amnon Yehoshua at telephone number 972-3-977-4494 (fax number 972-3-977-2959) a minimum of 48 hours in advance to arrange Site access. Interested parties may preview the Tender Documents prior to their purchase.  
All qualifying Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before May 18, 1998 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority, Main Office, 2nd floor, Room no. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.  
A Pre-Proposal conference will be held at the Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site Offices on April 21, 1998 at 10:00 to clarify provisions in the RFP documents, to summarize and present the Project and to respond to written questions posted by Offerors. Offerors are strongly encouraged to attend, but participation is not mandatory. Site access must be arranged in advance as stated in the RFP.  
The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest Proposal or any Proposal whatsoever.

## Hapoalim's '97 net up 20% to \$296m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank Hapoalim yesterday reported a 20.6 percent increase in net profits for 1997. Its net profits rose to \$296 million, the highest profit an Israeli company ever has presented.

The country's largest financial institution said that the increase is attributed to a rise in financing profit, a decrease in provisions for doubtful debts, and an increase in operating income.

Offsetting the growth was a one-time provision for a voluntary retirement program for employees and an increase in the tax provisions for profits or losses from extraordinary transactions.

This is the first time Hapoalim has presented its results since the Arison Group purchased a controlling interest in the bank, which the Histadrut had owned, in October.

Amiram Sivan, chairman of the board of directors, said the reorganization plan and an advanced

technological infrastructure helped to offset the impact of the economic downturn. He added that the economic slowdown is expected to continue this year.

The bank said that profit from financing activities before provisions for doubtful debts rose 1.6% to \$1.05b. as a result of an increase in activity and despite the decrease in the interest spreads.

Provisions for doubtful debts fell 36.1% to \$204.5m. from \$319.9m. in 1996, while operating

and other income for the year climbed 4.7% to \$723.7m. Net return on equity rose to 12.5% from last year's 11%.

The operational coverage ratio, which measures operating income as a percentage of operating expenses, was 68.5%, the highest among the five largest banks.

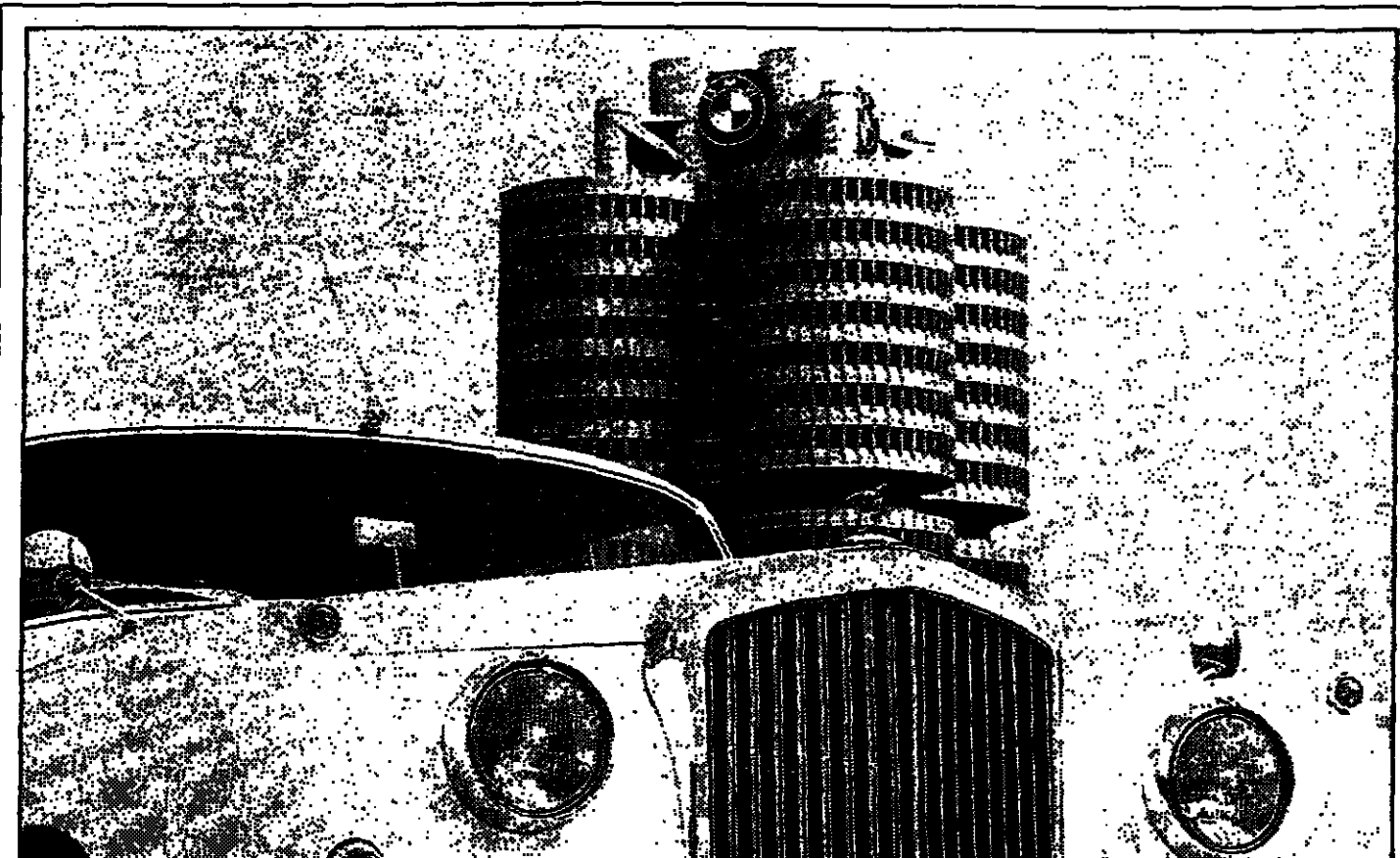
Subsidiary and affiliated companies contributed \$139m. to the bank's net profit, as compared to \$100m. a year ago.

Shareholder's equity increased

12.5% over the end of 1996 to \$2.7b., while total consolidated assets reached \$45.3b.

Credit to the public stood at \$26.7b. an increase of 7.3%, while deposits from the public rose 4.2% to \$33.3b.

Sivan said recent developments in the Far East can be expected to have a negative effect on trade with the region. He added that the bank is taking measures to meet the increased risk incurred by Israeli firms trading in that area.



### BMW to take over Rolls Royce

A British Bentley car of the Rolls Royce group is seen in front of the German automaker BMW in Munich, yesterday. BMW has won the bid to take over Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, beating rival Volkswagen and a group of Rolls enthusiasts making a long-shot attempt to keep the company British, it was announced yesterday.

(AP)

### Bezeq moves into the red

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bezeq Israel Telecom yesterday reported a net loss of NIS 223 million for 1997, compared with net profit of NIS 712m. a year earlier. The phone company said that the decline was an outcome of a provision of NIS 1.05 billion for the early retirement of workers.

Revenues decreased 1.6 percent last year to NIS 8.73b. from NIS 8.87b. a year earlier. Bezeq said that this resulted from changes in the exchange rate of the dollar against the consumer price index.

The company said that the Bezeq network includes 2.656 million phone lines, which is equal to 45 lines for every 100 citizens.

The number of Bezeq workers fell by 12% to 3.6 workers per 1,000 lines.

### Tower wants new plant ready by 2000

By NINA GILBERT

Tower Semiconductor plans to begin building a \$1.5 billion manufacturing plant this year, to be ready to meet the expected upswing in demand in the year 2000, Co-CEO Yoav Nissan-Cohen said yesterday.

The anticipated drop in orders in the first half of the year is part of the cyclical demand for semiconductors, he said, adding that this has no bearing on the company's plan to construct another facility. The company anticipates a boost

in orders for its new products in the second half of the year.

"The company is holding discussions with potential partners, to build the plant in Europe or in Israel, he said.

"We are extremely interested in establishing the factory in Israel and believe it is important that it be located here," he said. The company prefers to build the second plant adjacent to its Migdal Ha'emek facility.

However, he said the company is having difficulty getting approval from the government and

difficulties with potential partners. "At least some of the potential partners with which we have had discussions have problems with the political situation in Israel," he noted.

The company submitted an application to the Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center a few months ago, Nissan-Cohen said.

"The Treasury has said that if the project can be found good for the economy, there will be funds," he said. The plant could be eligible for a grant of some \$240 million.

### Azrieli Center opens tomorrow

By NINA GILBERT

Azrieli Center, the shopping mall in Tel Aviv's Shalom Project, the country's largest commercial complex, officially opens to the public tomorrow with some 70 percent of stores operating.

Developer David Azrieli, who will inaugurate the center tonight, said the complex is the "jewel in the crown" of shopping centers he has built in the country.

Menahem Eitan, president of the Camit development corporation, said the total investment in

the project will reach \$420 million. Some \$80 million was invested in the shopping center and another \$50 million in the parking lot, the largest in the Middle East, he said.

The project is comprised of three office towers. The circular tower is to be ready in September and the triangular tower in October. Work on the square tower is expected to resume in about two months, after Camit reaches an agreement with City Hall on changing the building's designation to a hotel.

The company said the shopping

center is fully rented, with more than 150 stores, and more than 50% of the space in the office towers is leased.

The shopping center has 30,000 sq.m. of commercial space on two levels and 3,500 parking spots on five levels. A covered bridge connects the Shalom train station to the center. Stores include Galeries Lafayette, to be situated in a 2,700 sq.m. space, and the Spanish chain Mango, which has rented 1,000 sq.m. Other stores include Polo Ralph Lauren, Sock Shop, Nine West, and TCBY Yogurt.

## Revamped housing index to be launched in January '99

By DAVID HARRIS

The Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday announced details of the long-awaited reform of the housing index, which is a major component of the monthly consumer price index (CPI).

In at least 80 percent of cases, the bureau will calculate the index based on the cost of rental property rather than the present use of house sales.

Only in small towns and villages will the existing system be maintained. The new method will come into effect in January.

The rental-based index, which is the common method used across Western Europe and North America, has two main advantages according to the bureau:

- It allows for the instant measure of price fluctuations in the housing market.
- It is seen as a more transparent and easier to understand than the current method.

The 1999 version of the index will be based on comparing rental prices of properties of a similar nature, the criteria being location, number of rooms, size, and age of the property.

One of the major reasons for the change was a feeling that the CPI is meant to reflect the cost of using a property rather than the initial purchase outlay.

Furthermore, it was argued there has not been a sufficiently large market for rental properties. Even today, despite a considerable increase in recent years, there is still concern within the committee that formulated the proposals that the market may be too small.

The bureau promised it would closely monitor the situation and the accuracy of the new figures, and from time to time will publish other housing statistics.

The committee had been weighing the possible changes to the housing index over the last two years and its recommendations were approved by both the bureau's public advisory committee and the government statistician Joseph Yabav.

The bureau said it is unclear whether the changes will lead to a higher or lower housing index.

The move away from the old system was welcomed yesterday by economist Dan Galai, a director of the consulting firm Sigma PCM.

Criticism of the housing component of the CPI rose last year as the indicator showed that housing prices were continuing to rise despite the reality of falling prices.

Additionally, the housing index is seen as one of the major factors that cause high volatility in the CPI. Last year, for example, the CPI jumped from -0.1% in September to 1.2% in October.

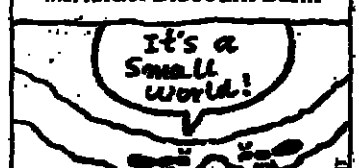
"It was ridiculous to retain the method that was full of such distortions of the real picture," said Galai, who fell short of saying the new system will be 100% accurate.

Galai explained that the likely outcome is that the CPI will show less variation from month-to-month.

Hebrew University Prof. Eytan Sheshinski expressed some concern that the rental market is still comparatively small, but said the general trend is very welcome.

Other changes will also come into effect in various sections of the overall CPI as part of a process of reforms that takes place once every few years.

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## THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GRLEF JAV CASHMAN

**31.3** Computer engineers from Germany and the US will be among the presenters of papers at the International Convention of the Technical Committee of Engineering of Computer-based Systems. The convention at Ma'ale Hahamisha concludes on April 1 and will be followed by workshops on April 2 and 3.

**31.3** The three-day Internet World '98 fair will open at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds with 100 leading companies in attendance. Visitors will be able to listen to scores of lectures on subjects such as advertising and marketing through the Internet, and using the Internet to recruit capital and human resources. Those participating will also be introduced to leading Israeli Web sites and new developments in Internet surfing.

**1.4** Mathematicians are heading north for the 7th National Conference of Professional Mathematicians, which will be held at the Haifa International Convention Center. Some 400 people, including several guests from abroad, are expected to participate. One of the subjects tabled for discussion is aspiring to higher standards in mathematics education. Participants will hear about what is happening in this sphere in Israel and the US. They will also discuss the impact of the computer on mathematical studies.

**2.4** The Binah Center for Jewish Identity and Israeli Culture, in conjunction with the Education Ministry, is hosting an all-day symposium on *The Right to Respect and the Obligation to Respect* at the Binah Seminar in Eilat. Speakers will include MK Prof. Amnon Rubinstein; former immigrant absorption minister Yair Tzaban; and Rabbi Yoel Ben-Nun.

**2.4** Prof. Ferenc Gazdag, director of the Institute for Strategic and Defense Studies, Budapest, will speak on *Nato and Hungarian Security* in the Beck Auditorium at Bar-Ilan University. Gazdag is in Israel as the guest of the BESA Center.

**2.4** An Israel Export Institute seminar on *Managing Start-Up Companies* will be held at the Tuxedo Hall, Textile House, 2 Kaufman Street, Tel Aviv. Participants will be taken through the steps of starting a company; getting involved in multinational business activities; giving proper incentives to workers via shares, options and taxation perks; bringing in investors; and getting listed on the stock exchange.

**2.4** Communications in an Era of Social Polarization is the subject of a study day to be held at Bar-Ilan University's Mintz Auditorium. Press Council President and former justice minister Haim Zadok will deliver the opening address on "Legal and

ethical restrictions on freedom of the press," after which there will be a panel discussion led by authors Haim Be'er and Gadi Taub, MK Nissim Zivli and journalist Shmuel Shinitzer.

**5.4** Judaism, Jewish Identity and Jewish Religious Education is the theme of an international two-day conference at Bar-Ilan University's Beck Auditorium. Participants will discuss issues such as how Jewish teenagers from abroad are affected in terms of their Jewish identity by group trips to Israel; the religiosity of Ethiopian Jewish graduates of the Israeli religious education system; teaching Judaism to adults; the risk of slavery in freedom with regard to observant Jews opposing modernity; and the fall of ethnic Judaism in the US.

**5.4** There's bound to be a lot of excitement at Tel Aviv University's three-day international colloquium on Cinema, Politics and Identity in Latin America. Access is via gate 4 at the main entrance to the campus.

**5.4** A national two-day conference marking the 25th Anniversary of Community Theater in Israel will open at the Givatayim Theater on the Shalom/Givra intersection, Givatayim. Yossi Alf, whose name more than anyone else's is associated with Israeli community theater, will chair the event. Participants will ponder on issues such as where community theater is going; community theater as an integral part of the education system; crime and theater; and community theater as a socio-political tool.

**7.4** Sensitive Intelligence at Work will be discussed at an all-day seminar at the Moriah Radisson Hotel, Tel Aviv.

**7.4** The first in a special film and rescue series on *Righteous Gentiles and the Rescue of European Jewry* will take place at the Jerusalem Cinematheque. Kate Nissenson, who was rescued in Sweden, will be the guest speaker. The audience will also view a documentary film *Rescue in Scandinavia*, narrated by Liv Ullmann and containing remarkable footage of people who saved Jews in Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

**22.4** The Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv, is the venue for a seminar on *Managing Information for Superior Performance*. All participants will receive as a gift the book *The Squandered Computer*. The two-day seminar will deal in depth with subjects such as "Information productivity assessment"; "Knowledge capital assessment"; "Economic assessment of networked computing"; "Y2000 Software Testing"; "Business case development"; and "The politics of information management."

## The diamond business gets rocked

Once proudly self-described as Israel's leading exporter, the beleaguered diamond industry is struggling to cope with the Asian currency crisis. Shoshanna Solomon reports

At 5:30 p.m. the corridors of the Israel Diamond Exchange, which were once teeming with buyers, sellers and middlemen, are eerily quiet, as are the security gates where visitors waiting to retrieve their IDs used to form long queues.

"Once, during peak times, you could wait a very long time for the lifts, which would stop at every floor to pick people up. Now, you can sometimes reach your destination without any stops at all," said Rony Rosenthal, a diamond dealer for H.R. Diamonds. "At 6:30 p.m. or even 7:00, dealers and manufacturers would still be working. Today, people go home by 4:00."

Once proudly self-described as Israel's leading exporter, an already beleaguered diamond industry must now deal with the severe blows it was dealt by the Asian currency crisis and the lingering depression in Japan.

To begin with, the industry has been struggling to meet the challenges of increased hardware and cheap-labor supplies from Russia. Then came the Asian crisis, adding to these long-term process dilemmas the special flavor of a sudden calamity.

Industry insiders and creditors, to be sure, say they believe diamonds are forever, and are bound to bounce back. Diamantaires, they say, are known for their flexibility and will surely know how to soften the bottom-line impact of the crisis they are undergoing.

"Without any doubt we have been badly hurt by the Far East crisis," said Shmuel Schnitzer of M. Schnitzer & Co. Diamonds, vice president of the Diamond Exchange. Sales to Japan and Southeast Asia, he explains, totaled about 40 percent of polished diamonds exports.

The drastic fall in Asian demand has generated additional damage, since some European clients who used to buy local diamonds did so in order to use them for Asian-bound jewelry.

Figures released by the Ministry of Industry and Trade diamond supervisor, Tzafir Inbar, indicate that in the four months which followed the outbreak of the Asian crisis last fall, total exports of polished diamonds from Israel plunged 9.2 percent, to \$1,258 billion.

This dive is attributed mainly to the drop in sales to Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea and Singapore. "Polished exports to these countries from November 1997 to February 1998 totaled only \$234 million, down 52% from exports of \$489 million in the same period the previous year," Inbar said. Fortunately, exports to the robust US economy rose during the past six months 10%-15%. Otherwise, says Inbar, the blow might have been worse.

Overall, polished-diamond exports last year totaled \$4,101b., up just 2.4% on the previous year. Traditionally, exports grew annually by 5%-7%, Inbar said.

The sharp devaluation of such currencies as the Korean won, the Indonesian rupiah and the Thai

baht, have sent the predominantly dollar-denominated prices of diamonds soaring. Once widely in demand in these countries, the precious stones are now less affordable.

Japan, on the other hand, while spared from the currency crisis, has been in the throes of a recession for a number of years, thus depressing demand for such luxury items as jewelry and diamonds.

The diamond industry worldwide was just barely managing to cope with the sector's shrinking profitability. This situation was caused by the rising price of rough diamonds coupled with the only slightly higher prices of polished goods. The Asian crisis is, as one manufacturer said, "the straw that broke the camel's back."

ASIA WAS a very important market to the Israeli industry, not so much because of the big quantities of diamonds exported to the region, but mainly because it bought expensive and quality stones, according to Exchange board-member Charlie Hollander, of H.R. Diamonds.

"The Chinese, Korean and Japanese buyers valued the importance of good quality stones and were prepared to pay a higher price for better quality, which is something European and US buyers are not prepared to do," Hollander said. When sales to these clients plummeted, traders were left with their costly goods and no alternative clients, he explained.

Faced with this crisis, the industry is focusing on keeping afloat. Many involved are just waiting for the storm to abate, while those who can afford it are looking to develop other markets. Some have launched new lines and introduced new technology to stay ahead of competition. But most manufacturers are cutting down production, and the whole industry is tightening its belt by reducing the number of employees and cutting costs. Some have even started renting out newly vacant office space.

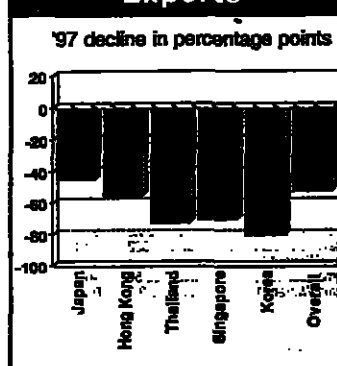
"Before the currency crisis in

Southeast Asia, 70% of my goods were sold to Japan, Korea and Hong Kong," said Hollander, who claims to have sensed the Asian problem back in July. "I adapted my production line to produce more commercial and less expensive goods; I don't want to be so dependent on the Japanese market any more," he says.

Hollander expects Japanese sales to fall this year by 50%. To brace for that possibility, he has cut his work force by 25% and accelerated his marketing efforts elsewhere, "Italy, the US and Australia, for example."

Up to 50% of Israeli diamond exports were to Southeast Asia, said Schnitzer. "Like the other dia-

Polished Diamond Exports



mantaires, we too are concentrating our efforts on the US and other new markets like Turkey, South America or Eastern Europe. We don't expect to be profitable this year."

Across the Pacific, American demand for diamonds and jewelry has been on the rise, but customers there are pushing prices down with demands for longer-term and more expensive credit deals. Only sellers who can meet those conditions manage to compete.

"I don't want to work with credit. I will wait for the crisis in Southeast Asia to end," said Rachel Levy of Rachel Levy Diamonds, a buying office whose markets were hit by the currency crisis.

MEANWHILE, in an effort to stabilize the market, the Central Selling Organization (CSO), the marketing arm of De Beers, which supplies at least 75% of the total global inventory of rough diamonds, has taken steps to help the crisis-hit industry by allocating smaller packages of rough stones to manufacturers worldwide.

Traditionally the CSO sells its rough diamonds to select manufacturers, called "sight holders," at specific dates and locations every month. These meetings between the CSO and the manufacturers are called "sights" and at these meetings the CSO representatives give the manufacturers their package of rough diamonds, which manufacturers are practically obliged to accept. By regulating the amount and quality of rough stones on the market, the CSO can regulate the price of diamonds and stem a prospective depreciation.

Now, says Inbar, the CSO has tightened the supply of rough diamonds, to prevent producers from accumulating stock. In his view, this trick will work and keep prices up.

Despite the Asian crisis, the level of debt of the Israeli-diamond industry to local banks has remained a stable \$1b.

"The diamond industry in Israel is still the strongest in the world," said Schnitzer. "People have not gone beyond their means, the level of debt to banks has not grown and businesses have been maintaining a high level of liquidity."

Even before the Asian crisis, profitability in the diamond sector was low, said Benjamin Oshman, senior deputy-general managing-director at Israel's Union Bank, the diamond industry's main creditor. "What happened in Asia exacerbated the problem but did not find Israel's diamond sector with its pants down," he said.

From his vantage point, he says, it seems the industry had indeed quickly read the new situation and efficiently reorganized by cutting down production and intensifying alternative marketing efforts.

Moreover, according to Oshman, the Asian blow has been softened here by the fact that, unlike their Indian counterparts who gave opened credit to Asian customers, Israeli diamantaires worked in Asia mostly on a cash basis.

The bank had not changed its lending policy to the sector since the outbreak of the crisis, Oshman emphasized.

Industry heads said that the planned, long-awaited opening of a rough-diamond bourse in the Ramat Gan exchange complex will also help the industry, by giving it direct access to rough goods at lower costs. The official opening of the new bourse, scheduled for June 23, is timed to coincide with the national jubilee celebrations.

The opening of the rough-diamond bourse will allow local manufacturers direct access to rough diamonds, said Inbar, "and whatever you can save on the price of rough is helpful."

Manufacturers and dealers believe that the steps they have taken will help give the industry the breathing space necessary for weathering the storm, and that like previous crises survived by the industry, this one too will eventually end.

But not that easily and not that soon. "It doesn't appear this crisis will end in the coming months. I expect that by the end of the year the situation in Asia will improve, and we will start seeing better sales only in the middle of 1999," one trader said.

Hollander does not expect Asian sales to pick up imminently, but pins his hopes on a gradual recovery of the Japanese market.

"A big problem with Japan is that there are too many stocks of jewelry piled up." In his view, the Japanese must this year sell off their stocks before buying new goods. In a year or two, Japan will be better off and its habitual jewelry purchases will reappear, he predicted.

Hollander is firm in his belief that in the long run things will get better. "These markets are not dead yet. We just need a few years of patience."

## Is a new Asian money order a pipe dream?

Analysts examine the feasibility of a foreign-exchange system based on fixed exchange rates — while the industrial powers ignore the proposal. Yoshiko Mori reports

TOKYO — Short-term capital flows, blamed as principal offenders in Asia's financial crisis, will only get more erratic with Japan's "Big Bang."

Some say the world needs a new foreign-exchange order to rein in such "hot money."

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin last month stressed the need to come up with a new architecture for the global financial system in order to avert another crisis.

Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's vice finance minister for international affairs, said many world leaders may well be starting to contemplate the idea of a financial agreement along the lines of the Bretton Woods system.

The world's top financial officials are expected to discuss short-term capital flows at an interim committee meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington in April.

But monetary sources in Tokyo played down the drive for a new order. "I see neither Washington nor Tokyo seriously working on or taking an organized approach to a new currency structure," a Japanese monetary source said.

It is still at the stage of throwing out an abstract idea and watching others respond to it, he said.

Analysts said a solution along the lines of Bretton Woods, a postwar foreign-exchange system based on fixed exchange rates, is difficult in global currency markets with a daily turnover of \$1.2 trillion.

In July 1994, the Bretton Woods Commission, a high-level independent commission headed by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker, said countries should establish a more formal system of coordination to help avoid excessive exchange-rate misalignments that lead to world volatility.

But the world's three biggest economies — the United States, Japan and Germany — have turned a deaf ear.

Spurred by international criticism that Tokyo is not doing enough for Asia, Japan has come up with various initiatives in the past six months while injecting substantial money into troubled Asian economies.

Those Tokyo initiatives, while stopping short of presenting a new foreign-exchange system, do address issues that should be addressed under a new order, analysts said.

In September, Japan floated the idea of an "Asia Fund" — a region-wide facility to address financial crises.

But that quickly ran into opposition from the US, Europe and the IMF, who feared such a fund would disburse cash without demanding policy adjustments often required by the IMF as a cure for crises.

Last November, as the Asian crisis took a turn for the worse, finance ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum met in Manila and agreed on the need for more money. But the idea of a permanent fund

was quietly dropped.

Deputy finance officials from Asia and the US met last week in Tokyo to follow up on initiatives of the so-called Manila Framework. Those initiatives include a mechanism for regional surveillance, enhanced economic and technical cooperation and a cooperative financing arrangement that would supplement the IMF.

Japan also floated a rescue concept of asking the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to guarantee the debts of troubled Asian nations.

Officials at Japan's Ministry of Finance (MOF) said the plan could help restore confidence in the region because a guarantee could solve short-term funding problems.

But it failed to win support from the US, which raised objections over "moral hazard" — the fear that promises of a future bailout would prompt ever riskier lending.

A senior MOF official attributed the failures of Japan's ideas to a difference in style. "Our style is to give a blood transfusion to keep a seriously injured person from dying. Meanwhile, the American style is to tell those who are bleeding badly to first try to heal themselves," the senior MOF official said.

C.H. Kwan, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute, said: "Japanese ideas for Asian economic and foreign stability, including some good ones, have crashed one after another. This indicates

that Tokyo may have problems with diplomacy."

"In fact, things got more complicated for Japan as the Asian crisis transformed itself from being purely economic to including issues involving regional security," Kwan added.

Washington, in January, dispatched Defense Secretary William Cohen to the region, and US officials have said repeatedly that the US has critical economic and national security interests at stake in promoting the restoration of financial stability in Asia.

Japanese policy-makers have made it clear that they want to contribute more ideas toward global financial and currency stability. This is in part because further commitment to foreign aid is becoming difficult under severe budgetary constraints, although Japan is still the world's largest provider.

Japan's foreign-aid budget is due to be reduced by about 10 percent in the fiscal year starting on April 1.

Traditionally, Japan has agreed to foot the bill, while the US has plotted how to save nations.

Kwan said: "Given the fact that Japanese financial institutions have loaned six times more than US banks, Japan should be more aggressive in presenting ideas for regional stability." And the US needs to contribute not just opinions but money as well, Kwan added.

According to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS),

Japanese banks' total exposure to Asian countries was \$276.2 billion as of the end of June 1997, compared with US banks' total exposure at that time of \$46.4b.

Analysts said the global community must come up with rules for burden sharing to form the core of any new order. "In order to discuss how to split the bill among borrowers, lenders, countries, the Group of Seven and international bodies, a permanent institution such as an Asian BIS would be helpful, rather than proceeding on an ad hoc basis," said Masao Suzuki, professor of economics at Tokyo's Senshu University.

A concerted, organized approach is essential, rather than just currency intervention or ad hoc meetings, he said.

Bernie Fraser, former governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, who was the first to call for an Asian BIS in 1995, said: "Central banks have more freedom to act in their particular spheres of responsibility and can usually move more speedily than other organs of government when they need to."

Last November, the Bank of Japan intervened to prop up the value of the Indonesian rupiah in cooperation with the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Bank Indonesia. But due to a lack of a burden-sharing organization, the BOJ suffered huge forex losses after it bought rupiah at around 3,000 per dollar. The rupiah fell in January to as low as 17,000 per dollar. (Reuters)

## Building Blocks

By NINA GORDON

THE AVIV and GIVATAYIM neighborhoods in Tel Aviv are now building blocks for a new project.

The project, which is now in the planning stage, is a new residential complex. It will consist of several buildings, each with a different number of floors. The project is located in a prime area of Tel Aviv, near the city center.

The project is being developed by a local company. The company has already secured the necessary permits and is now in the process of raising funds for the project. The project is expected to be completed within the next few years.

The project is a significant development for the area. It will provide much-needed housing for the growing population of Tel Aviv. The project is also expected to create many jobs during its construction phase.

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# Platini: Even my Dad can't get tickets

LONDON (Reuters) - Michel Platini told the London Evening Standard yesterday that tickets for the World Cup finals in France are so scarce he can't even get any for his father.

In an interview with the newspaper, Platini, the joint-president of the France '98 Organizing Committee, said: "All my friends and family are annoyed because they can't get tickets."

"Even my Dad isn't happy because I can't let him have what he wants," according to the Standard. Platini senior asked for 10 tickets for the final, but received a polite "no" from his son, the greatest player in French soccer history.

Platini, 42, went on: "We've had 20 million requests for 2.5 million tickets. It's not surprising we can't please everybody."

"I've got people in France who have worked in football for 40 years angry because they haven't got tickets to see a World Cup game and people in England angry because they can't come."

"Isn't it right that French people should have a chance to see a World Cup match when they are hosting the competition?"

Everyone does the same. If people in France want to buy a ticket for this year's FA Cup Final, where should they apply? he said.

## England win despite Lara century

BRIDGETOWN (Reuters) - A brilliant 97-ball century by West Indies captain Brian Lara failed to prevent England winning the first one-day match by 16 runs on Sunday.

While Lara was picking off runs with consummate ease, West Indies always looked capable of overhauling England's 293 for five, built around a record opening stand of 165 between Alec Stewart and Nick Knight.

But soon after completing his 12th one-day century, laced with 13 fours and three sixes, Lara was run out attempting a second run and England edged their way back into control of the match.

Lara and Carl Hooper took the fight to England after openers Clayton Lambert and Philo Wallace had fallen with only 27 on the board.

Their blistering stand of 88 came from 14 overs, Hooper hitting 45 off only 34 deliveries. By the end of the first 15 overs 111 were on the board.

But England withstood the Lara-Hooper blitz, held their catches and profited from Lara's ill-judged second run when he had made 110. Ben Hollis produced a pin-point throw from the boundary to run out the West Indies skipper.

Franklyn Rose and Rawl Lewis put on 44 for the eighth wicket to keep West Indies in the hunt but the smart stumping of Lewis by Alec Stewart tilted the balance firmly England's way.

Earlier, Knight and Stewart had begun England's innings at such a furious rate that 78 came off the first 15 overs and 100 was reached in the 21st over.

When Stewart fell for 74 the pair had topped the previous best England opening stand of 156 by Graham Gooch and Mike Atherton at Old Trafford in 1991.

Knight, who led the A team in Sri Lanka this winter, went on to make his third one-day international century.

His 122 came off 130 balls with four sixes and 13 fours.

England's victory was skipper Adam Hoggie's fifth in succession as one-day captain. The first four came in the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah in December which England won.

The second match of the series of five is in St Lucia tomorrow.

Pakistan clinch one-day series against Zimbabwe

Pakistan recovered from losing three middle order wickets in four overs to beat Zimbabwe by four wickets in the second one-day match on Sunday.

They won the series 2-0.

Replying to Zimbabwe's competitive 272 for six, the touring team made 276 for six with 20 balls to spare. Most of the match Mohammad Wasim top-scored with a career-best 76.

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (Reuters) - Chile's Marcelo Rios claimed the world No. 1 ranking on Sunday with a superb 7-5 6-3 6-4 win over Andre Agassi, a former world No. 1, in the final of the Lipton Tennis Championships.

Rios became the first South American to reach the top of the rankings and the 14th player to achieve No. 1 status in the 25-year history of the ranking system.

"I think winning like this and beating Agassi in the final, it's like really, really good, really great," an unusually talkative Rios said afterward. "I played a great match." Rios' win ended Pete Sampras' 102 consecutive weeks in the top spot. Sampras has been No. 1 for a total of 218 weeks over his career, exactly one year less than Ivan Lendl's record 270 weeks at the top.

Rios becomes the third player to rank No. 1 without

### Number ones in men's tennis

(Since ranking system began in 1973)

1973 August - the Netherlands (Houtman) He held the position for 40 weeks.

1974 June - John Newcombe (Australia) Eight weeks.

1975 January - Bjorn Borg (Sweden) 160 weeks. He held it for nine times in his career for a total of 268 weeks.

1977 August - Bjorn Borg (Sweden) One week. He held it six times for a total of 170 weeks.

1980 March - John McEnroe (US) Three weeks. Held it 14 times for a total of 103 weeks.

1982 February - Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia/US) 11 weeks. Held it eight times for a total of 270 weeks, the most by any player.

1983 September - Mats Wilander (Sweden) 20 weeks. Held it five times for a total of 72 weeks.

1987 January - Boris Becker (Germany) Three weeks. Held it twice for a total of 12 weeks.

1988 February - Jim Courier (US) Six weeks. Held it four times for a total of 58 weeks.

1992 April - Pete Sampras (US) 19 weeks. Held it five times for a total of 218 weeks.

1995 April - Andre Agassi (US) 30 weeks. Held it 10 times for a total of 32 weeks.

1996 February - Thomas Muster (Austria) One week. Held it twice for a total of six weeks.

1998 March - Marcelo Rios (Chile)

champion to be No. 1 in the world in tennis. "I think everybody is going to take it like really good. I feel really good."

## Smashnova loses in Texas final

By HEATHER CHAIT

After a dry spell, Israel's top woman tennis player, Anna Smashnova, is enjoying a return to form.

This week the 21-year-old reached the final of a \$25,000 challenger tournament in Texas, where she lost to the fourth seed, Elena Wagner from Germany.

The score was 2-6, 6-1, 7-5 in the German's favor.

In the semi-final Smashnova beat American Jolene Watanabe 6-0, 6-2.

Last week Smashnova moved up through the qualifying rounds at the Lipton tournament in Key Biscayne, won her first round match in the main draw and lost her next clash with Conchita Martinez.

Meanwhile, Israel's Davis Cup team is hard in training for this weekend's tie against Austria.

Eyal Erlich, who lost in the final of the \$15,000 international tournament in Ashkelon over the weekend, has improved his chances of making one of the two singles berths.

Eyal Ran lost in the semi-final round.

The two teams will be hosted tonight at a cocktail party, given by the Austrian ambassador.

Yesterday, the Israel Tennis Association announced that entry for youth to the matches at Ramat Hasharon would be free.

## Senators, Penguins tie

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Magnus Arvedson scored in the third period Sunday as the Ottawa Senators, who haven't won at Pittsburgh in six years - played a 1-1 tie against the Penguins.

Since joining the NHL in 1992, the Senators are 0-1-3 at the Civic Arena and 2-2-5 overall against the Penguins.

The Senators dominated the second period, outshooting Pittsburgh 12-2, but couldn't get rookie goaltender Peter Shkurba until Arvedson scored at 3:22 of the third.

Su Barnes scored his 29th goal for Pittsburgh in the second period.

Panthers 4, Blackhawks 0

John Vanbiesbrouck made 27 saves in his fourth shutout of the season and Viktor Kozlov scored twice as Florida notched a road win.

Ed Jovanovski and Radek Dvorak also scored in Florida, which has won three straight following a 13-game losing streak.

Chicago was blanked for the 11th time this season.

Red Wings 4, Sabres 2

Steve Yzerman scored two goals to top 1,400 career points and also moved into 12th place on the NHL career goal list as Detroit beat Dominik Hasek and the Sabres at home.

Yzerman became the 13th player in NHL history to reach 1,400 points when his long shot deflected off Buffalo defenseman Bob

## SPORTS

in brief

### Hakkinen wins Brazilian Grand Prix

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Mika Hakkinen of Finland put in a commanding performance to win the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday after leading from start to finish.

The Finn's McLaren team mate, Briton David Coulthard, finished in second place, 1.1 seconds behind at the chequered flag.

German Michael Schumacher, driving for Ferrari, took third place after a race-long battle with fourth-placed Austrian Alexander Wurz, in a Benetton, and fifth-placed German Heinz-Harald Frentzen, in a Williams.

Hakkinen's victory, his third in succession after wins in Jerez and Melbourne, means he now holds an eight point lead at the head of the drivers' world championship over Coulthard.

### Davis Cup boss Becker ready to play singles

BREMEN (Reuters) - Germany's new Davis Cup manager Boris Becker is ready to play singles as well as doubles if needed in their world group first round tie against South Africa this weekend.

Becker started his new role as player-manager, with Carl-Uwe Steeb as captain, when the German team gathered in Bremen yesterday to prepare for the encounter starting on Friday.

Former world No. 1 Becker said he was likely to team up with David Prinosil in the doubles.

Nicolas Kiefer and Tommy Haas are expected to play singles but Becker hinted he may step in. "If it's necessary, I'm ready to play in the singles as well," said Becker.

### Man Utd seek new deals with England trio

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United are negotiating new contracts to keep England midfield trio David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt at the club for a further five years, club chief executive Martin Edwards said yesterday.

"We are in negotiations with Scholes, Butt and Beckham," Edwards said as the club published its latest financial results.

Edwards also said the English champions wanted to raise the capacity of their Old Trafford stadium, which houses 55,000 and is the largest in the premier league.

United reported profit before tax of £14.9 million in the six months to January 31.

### Barnsley ban invading fans indefinitely

LONDON (Reuters) - Premier league club Barnsley have imposed an indefinite ban on fans who were arrested after running on to the pitch in Saturday's 3-2 home defeat by Liverpool.

Barnsley had three men sent off and referee Gary Witherall had to be escorted from the pitch for his own safety.

Six fans invaded the pitch and after the match an angry mob gathered outside the ground, eventually dispersing after an hour.

### SA win 2nd Test and series against Sri Lanka

PRETORIA (AP) - Hansie Cronje bludgeoned his way to 82 off 62 balls yesterday as South Africa cruised to a six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second Test.

South Africa, chasing 226 to win, scored 226 for four with more than a day to spare to win the series 2-0 after taking the first Test by 70 runs last week.

It was a remarkable reversal of fortune for the South Africans, who had been bowled out for 200 in the first innings compared to Sri Lanka's 303.

Man-of-the-match Allan Donald turned the match around with a remarkable spell of fast bowling, taking 5-54 to rout Sri Lanka for a second innings 122.

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### PASSPORT

1997 VOLKSWAGEN POLO, like new, 5 door, 5 speed, a/c, dual air bags, ABS, rad. 500-825-177. [79618]

CITROEN SAXO 1.4, 1997, first hand, white, 4 doors, 100,000 km, immobilizer, a/c, radio, stereo, 2.4 cc engine, 11,500 under book. Tel. 03-522-8917. [791957]

### UNRESTRICTED

MITSUBISHI GALANT 1996, automatic, power steering, immobilizer, white, bar gain price 30,000 shekels at receiving new car next month. Arie's office Tel. 03-517-8248. Home 09-57-5656, Car Tel. 052-588-783.

MITSUBISHI SUPER LANCER, 1996, automatic, power steering, bargain, gain price 30,000 shekels at receiving new car next month. Arie's office Tel. 03-517-8248. Home 09-57-5656, Car Tel. 052-588-783.

1994 VOLVO 940 GL, Saloon for sale, great condition, only 37,000 km, full dealer service record. Phone Derek or Julie, Tel. 02-533-0345.

MAZDA 323, 1995, GLX, automatic, year conditioned, Tourist only, 39,000 km, purple, 1st hand, great little car, 10,000 k.i.s. In quick, it will be sold. Collin 09-742-9517, 052-423-327. [791832]

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# 'It don't mean a thing 'til we get the ring'

## Cleveland is counting on the Indians to get serious after last season's near miss

NEW YORK (AP) — Two tantalizing outs.

The Cleveland Indians came that close to winning their first World Series in 49 years last season. Despite three straight AL Central crowns and two league championships in three years, the Indians want it all.

"We're just not thinking about getting there (the World Series) or getting ready," shortstop Omar Vizquel said. "We're thinking about winning the whole thing."

So are the New York Yankees, Baltimore Orioles and Seattle Mariners. But with their talented hitters and just enough pitching, the Indians should repeat as AL champions. The Yankees and Orioles will slug it out in the East, while the Mariners — as long as they have Randy Johnson — are the class of the West.

General manager John Hart has revamped the Indians again. Third baseman Matt Williams, pitcher Orel Hershiser and center fielder Marquis Grissom are gone; Travis Fryman is at third, Dwight Gooden is a starter, and look who's back in center — Kenny Lofton, just a year after being dealt to Atlanta for Grissom.

The Indians' starting rotation is thin but, with talent in the minors, Hart could get some help. Johnson, maybe? Jerry Manuel — one of four first-year AL managers — will try and keep the White Sox close enough that the club won't trade all its pitching like last season. Frank Thomas and Albert Belle's second year together should be more productive.

With the expansion Tampa Devil Rays joining the AL East, the Detroit Tigers are now in the Central and Milwaukee is back in the NL.

Kansas City should improve on 67 wins of last year, while the Twins might be playing their final season in Minnesota.

In the winter's biggest trade, the Yankees solved two major problems — leadoff and second base — by getting Chuck Knoblauch from Minnesota. Knoblauch and Chili Davis at DH give the Yankees a slight edge over the Orioles.

New York's success, however, will depend on the health of a fragile starting rotation. David Cone returns from his second operation in two years, Andy Pettitte has a troublesome back and Hideki Irabu is still learning American baseball customs.

Ray Miller inherits a veteran squad in Baltimore. He's planning to utilize a closer-by-committee strategy with Randy Myers gone to Toronto.

Unable to agree to a long-term deal or find a team willing to trade, the Mariners will begin the season with Johnson as their ace. If the bullpen improves, Seattle could exceed 90 wins.

A hamstring injury limited Ken Griffey Jr. to three homers in July. Still, last year's MVP hit 56 — the eighth-highest total in history — and will take another run at Roger Maris' record of 61 — which also came in an expansion year.

A look at the AL in predicted order of finish:

### EAST

New York Yankees  
As he begins his 25th season of ownership, George Steinbrenner seems as determined as ever to get his team back to the World Series. Unable to land Pedro Martinez or Johnson, Steinbrenner personally took over the Knoblauch negotiations so the talented second baseman wouldn't slip away.

Knoblauch (.291 average, 62 steals) is the leadoff hitter the Yankees have sorely needed. And

his range provides the perfect complement to shortstop Derek Jeter (.291, 70 RBIs).

Bernie Williams' contract negotiations turned ugly this winter before the Yankees agreed to pay him \$8.25 million

for '98. Paul O'Neill (.324, 21 homers, 117 RBIs), Williams (.328, 21, 100) and Tino Martinez (44,

141) give the Yanks the best 3-4-5 punch in the league, and with Chili Davis (30, 90) in the No. 6 slot, there's no one to pitch around.

Mariano Rivera finished with 43 saves in his first year as a closer in '97, and few teams can boast the lefty-righty setup combination like Mike Stanton (6-1) and Jeff Nelson (club-record 77 appearances).

### Baltimore Orioles

Baltimore's everyday lineup doesn't have a single player under age 30. That's not to say the club is ready to start receiving Social Security checks, but it does point to the necessity to win now.

The O's were only the third AL team to go wire-to-wire last year, but the season ended in a shocking ALCS loss to Cleveland.

Davey Johnson was fired hours before being selected manager of the year, a p.r. nightmare for majority owner Peter Angelos.

Miller's biggest problem will be replacing Myers' 45 saves.

Armando Benitez (2.45 ERA, 9 saves) may be the long-term solution.

Second baseman Roberto Alomar, limited to 112 games by injury in '97, and Rafael Palmeiro (38 HRs, 110 RBIs) should post huge numbers in the last years of their current contracts.

Mike Mussina (15-8) could be on the brink of superstardom. Jimmy Key (16-10), Scott Erickson (16-7) and Scott Kamieniecki (10-6) give the O's one of baseball's most solid starting fourmans. Doug Drabek could figure as a No. 5.

### Toronto Blue Jays

If Myers does for the bullpen what Roger Clemens did for the starting rotation, the Jays could be in the wild-card hunt.

Clemens was brilliant in his first year in Toronto, winning 21 games and another Cy Young Award. He became the first AL pitcher to lead the league in wins, strikeouts (292) and ERA (2.05) since Hal Newhouse in 1945.

With Pat Hentgen (15-10) capable of winning 20 games, Woody Williams (9-14) maturing and Juan Guzman looking good following September shoulder surgery, the Jays could have one of the AL's strongest starting groups.

And Myers (1.51 ERA) can only help a team that played 59 one-run games last season.

All rookie manager Tim Lincecum needs are some hitters. Toronto's .244 team batting average was baseball's worst last year. Emerging star Jose Cruz Jr. (26 homers in 104 games) and Carlos Delgado (30 HRs) give the lineup some pop, but they'll have to drive in runs to compensate for the loss of Carter.

### Boston Red Sox

Remember the days when \$75 million could buy you more than a 17-game winner? That's how much the Red Sox spent for Pedro Martinez's services for the next six years. The right-hander can throw four pitches for outs, and last year with Montreal, he became the first pitcher since Steve Carlton in 1972 to strike out 300 with an ERA under 2.00.

Now the Sox have to worry about their most popular player, Mo Vaughn. Vaughn was cleared of drunk driving charges this



STILL SPRY — Orioles 3B Cal Ripken is on Horse and still counting.

spring, but has accused the club of smearing his reputation while the first baseman seeks a long-term contract.

This spring, the Sox did lock up Rookie of the Year shortstop Nomar Garciaparra for the next five years. His hitting — .306, 30 HRs, 98 RBIs — is extraordinary, but he needs to tighten his defense.

So does the rest of the team. While Boston led the league in hitting, it also made 135 errors.

Jim Leyritz, playing for his fourth team in three years, gives the Red Sox a leader and dependable catcher. He'll have to handle a pitching staff that, aside from Martinez, is weak, with knuckleballer Tim Lincecum (12-15) the most proven arm.

### Tampa Bay Devil Rays

Wade Boggs, Fred McGriff, Dave Martinez, Paul Sorrento, Wilson Alvarez and Roberto Hernandez. Hey, for an expansion team, these guys might not be half bad.

General manager Chuck Lamar's idea was to blend veterans with fresh faces, and it'll be manager Larry Rothschild's task to find the right mix.

Boggs, who grumbled about playing time with the Yankees, needs 200 hits to reach 3,000. The 39-year-old third baseman will get the at-bats as long as he stays healthy and productive. Former Phillie Phanatic star will start at shortstop, with Miguel Cairo the likely starter at second.

McGriff, Sorrento and former Indian Herbert Perry will all see time at first base and DH. John Flaherty will start behind the plate.

### CENTRAL

Cleveland Indians  
On Jim Thome's birthday last

AMERICAN LEAGUE  
Today  
Chicago at Texas  
Kansas at Baltimore  
Detroit at Tampa Bay  
Cleveland at Seattle

year, all Indians paid tribute to the first baseman by hiking up their socks. Thome does. This spring, the club is trying a new fashion statement, wearing "Team Thome" socks. On the backs, the shirts read "It don't mean a thing 'til we get the ring." And again, only pitchers could get in the way of the Indians finally getting some jewelry.

The Trifecta counting on post-season heroics for 15 or more wins this season. The 22-year-old star has been a steady force since he took over last October.

Charles (15-11) had his confidence shaken last fall, while Chad Ogea (9) showed promise as a steady starter. Gooden no longer gets out.

Jose M. who couldn't close out the season in Game 7 of the series, still looks like the season's closer. Mike Jackson, Paul Asenman and Eric Plank, Hargrove has some of the league's best set-up men.

If Lofton, he'll score runs in bunches, with Thome (40 HRs, 122 RBIs), David Justice (32 RBIs) and Manny Ramirez (.326) hitting

Clellie joining Frank Thome's lineup, the White Sox were moved past the Indians. So what happened

much pressure on himself. Third baseman Robin Ventura played in only 54 games after breaking his ankle. And the club traded its best pitchers while still in contention.

So long as the Sox don't match their 8-17 April of last season or dump any more salaries, Manuel's club should contend for a wild card.

Thomas (.247, 35 HRs, 125 RBIs) and Belle (30, 116) are the most feared 1-2 punch in baseball. Thomas could be used at DH with Mario Valdez, 23, at first base.

Ventura will hit fifth, followed by Magglio Ordonez, a Rookie of the Year favorite. Ordonez, a right fielder, was the American Association MVP in '97 and batted .319 in 21 games after a callup. The club signed troubled outfielder-DH Wil Cordero this spring.

Detroit Tigers  
No longer the league's patsies, the young Tigers aren't far from being winners.

They finished 79-83 in '97, a giant leap from their 53-109 record in '96, and a weaker division could have Buddy Bell's squad hanging around all year.

Detroit's turnaround can be traced to improved defense and pitching. The Tigers became the first team to go from worst to first in fielding percentage and lowered their team ERA from an AL-record 6.38 to 4.56.

Left-hander Justin Thompson (15-11) has the ability to win 20 games this year and might have last season with a little more help. The Tigers scored only 11 runs in his losses.

Brian Moehler showed promise as a rookie, shutting out Atlanta in one of his 31 starts. The rest of the starting rotation is a little shaky

with Frank Castillo, Scott Sanders and Tim Worrell in the mix.

Leadoff hitter Brian Hunter led the majors with 74 steals last season, and centers a strong outfield with Bobby Higginson (27 HRs, 101 RBIs) in right and Luis Gonzalez (68 RBIs) in left.

Tony Clark (32, 117), the club's 6-foot-7 slugger, is one of baseball's most underrated players.

### Kansas City Royals

After trying a youth movement and finishing last for the first time in their history, the Royals brought in veterans last season.

Didn't work — they were in the Central's basement again.

Manager Tony Muser's club might be a little better this year, but not much.

Workhorse Kevin Appier (9-13) underwent shoulder surgery this spring and is expected to be out at least until the All-Star break.

Tim Belcher (13-12) is the only proven commodity on the staff.

Closer Jeff Montgomery came back from shoulder surgery with a strong second half but the bullpen was brutal, earning a major-league low 29 saves while blowing 21.

Jeff Conine, one of the many Marlins now elsewhere, will start in left field, while the club hopes center fielder Johnny Damon (27.5, 16 steals) fulfills his potential.

### Minnesota Twins

They traded their best player this winter and could be spending their next one in a new state.

Owner Carl Pohlad has been doing all he can to convince legislators to give him a new stadium. If he doesn't get one, he's likely to sell the team to a North Carolina investor.

Tom Kelly, in his 13th year as manager, will get the most out of what little he has, including a solid No. 1 starter in Brad Radke, 20-10 last year when the club had only 68 victories.

Bob Tewksbury, 37, is the only other returning starter with at least eight wins. Greg Swindell was effective in switching to a long reliever (7-4, 3.58) after being a career starter, and Rick Aguilera, 36, had 26 saves last year after a failed try at being a starter.

Knoblauch's departure has sent Todd Walker from third to second.

Walker hit only .237 in 52 games after being productive in the minors. Paul Molitor showed there is life after 40, hitting .305 with 89 RBIs.

### WEST

#### Seattle Mariners

The club listened to offers for Johnson but didn't hear one that it liked. Johnson didn't hear what he liked, either.

"I've brought a lot to the table for the Mariners, and I haven't got the same back from them," said the 6-foot-10 left-hander, upset that the team won't discuss a new contract.

Johnson was 20-4 last season with a 2.28 ERA and 291 strikeouts, leading the M's to their second division title in three years.

They'll have trouble winning another without him. Along with Johnson, Jeff Fassero (16-9) and Jamie Moyer (17-5) give the M's the best trio of lefty starters in the game. The bullpen is where the problems lie.

Seattle led the majors with 26 blown saves. Closer Heathcliff Slocumb was 0-9 last season, but did save 10 of 11 chances after coming over in a trade with Boston.

The offense will be exceptional. Griffey will post his usual numbers, as will DH Edgar Martinez (.330, 108 RBIs) and Jay Buhner (40, 109). David Segui is the new

first baseman, and All-Star second baseman Joey Cora (.300) hit the leg weights this winter in hopes of improving on his six steals.

Anaheim Angels  
There they were, tied for first place in mid-August, when the Angels found a new way to fail.

In the span of 10 days, infielder Tony Phillips was busted for drugs and pitcher Chuck Finley and rookie catcher Todd Greene broke their wrists. Anaheim finished six games back of the Mariners, but if they can stay healthy, the Angels will give the Mariners a run.

Edison Field has been renovated with the fences moved back 12 feet in the alleys and four feet in center. That will give center fielder Jim Edmonds more room to make acrobatic catches.

Darin Erstad isn't a typical first baseman. He bats leadoff and led the club with 23 steals in '97. Garret Anderson (.303, 92 RBIs) and Tim Salmon (129 RBIs) flank Edmonds, giving the Angels one of the AL's premier outfields.

Cecil Fielder was signed this winter as the DH and should have plenty of chances to drive in runs. Gary DiSarcina is an underrated shortstop and Randy Velarde is back at second after missing last season with an elbow injury.

### Texas Rangers

Scariest news out of spring training? Juan Gonzalez is in the best shape of his life.

He already looked like he was chiseled out of stone, but he worked with a trainer this winter in hopes of playing a full season. Injuries caused Gonzalez to miss 29 games last year but he still finished third in the league in homers (42) and RBIs (139).

Ivan Rodriguez's .313 average was the highest by an AL catcher in 26 years, and he's durable, playing in 150 games a year ago.

First baseman Will Clark hasn't been able to stay healthy the last few years, and his leadership and numbers are essential for the Rangers to contend.

Texas strengthened its defense up the middle by signing second baseman Luis Alcega and bringing back Kevin Elster, who had a career year in '96 for the Rangers before going to Pittsburgh.

Left-handed Darren Oliver (9-12) showed last year he can be a No. 1 starter, but after him, the talent pool drops off significantly. John Burkett (9-12, 4.56 ERA) and Aaron Sele (13-12 at Boston) need to produce.

So does the bullpen. With the exception of John Wetteland (31 saves, 1.91) there was little help from the relievers last season.

### Oakland Athletics

It's hard to be optimistic when your biggest off-season acquisitions are Rickey Henderson and Kenny Rogers.

Rogers finally got away from the Yankees after two miserable years in Steinbrenner's doghouse. The left-hander immediately becomes the ace of a staff that will include Tom Candiotti, Mike Mohler, Ariel Prieto and Jimmy Haynes.

Henderson: 39, baseball's career leader with 1,231 stolen bases, begins his fourth tour with the A's, where he has spent 11 of his 13 years. The club is hoping he can generate more fan interest and provide leadership.

With Mark McGwire gone, Jason Giambi (.293, 81 RBIs) is now the everyday first baseman. Scott Spiezio will start at second with Kurt Abbott at short. The A's are excited about Miguel Tejada's defense and the pop in his bat. He could push past Abbott before long.

## NHL box scores and standings

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	45	19	9	99	203	140
Philadelphia	37	24	11	85	213	171
Washington	33	28	11	77	190	184
N.Y. Islanders	22	37	10	62	181	204
N.J. Devils	21	39	12	54	174	225
Tampa Bay	16	46	9	41	139	228

#### Northwest Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	36	20	17	89	202	168
Montreal	34	29	7	75	212	183
Boston	32	26	13	77	186	167
Buffalo	31	26	15	77	186	167
Ottawa	28	31	13	69	168	179
Carolina	29	35	7	65	175	193

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	40	18	11	91	214	143
Chicago	39	20	9	87	225	179
St. Louis	38	26	8	84	211	172
San Jose	39	22	7	84	178	178
Phoenix	28	32	12	68	193	202
Toronto	26	37	6	61	165	205

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	37	20	16	90	214	180
San Jose	37	21	11	85	192	172
Edmonton	28	30	16	72	183	202
San Jose	29	36	13	71	177	191
Calgary	24	35	13	61	193	215
Anaheim	24	38	11	59	180	227
Vancouver	22	39	13	57	203	253

#### x-clinched playoff berth

Buffalo	0	0	2-2	2-2	18	11	77	214	143
Detroit	0	1	3-4	3-4	39	20	93	225	179
East	Record	Points	Goals	Shots	Goals	Shots	Goals	Shots	Goals







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## Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman &amp; Ori Lewis

Report: Show red  
card to racism

LONDON (Reuters) — Soccer players who make racist comments about other footballers should be sent off, according to a British government report on racism in the game.

The report from a government task force headed by former Conservative minister David Mellor was published yesterday.

"The FA should issue guidance about rule 12 to all referees to make clear that a red card should immediately be shown for racist comments of any kind on the field of play," the report said.

The report said racism was still a deep-seated problem in English soccer. "Young black and Asian players in England still encounter unacceptable levels of racist abuse on and off the pitch," it said.

## The Heat repeat

Miami captures 2nd-straight division title

MIAMI (AP) — Dan Majerle scored a season-high 22 points and Tim Hardaway had 16 points and a season-high 15 assists as Miami clinched its second straight Atlantic Division title with a 109-77 win over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

Alonzo Mourning outplayed Hakeem Olajuwon in the battle of two of the NBA's top centers, outscoring the Houston All-Star 16-15 and outrebounding him 15-4.

Spurs 74, Pacers 55  
Host Indiana set an NBA record by scoring the fewest points in a game since the advent of the shot clock.

The Pacers played without their two best players. Reggie Miller was suspended for one game for a flagrant foul against Charlotte's Vlade Divac on Friday, and Rik Smits has an injured foot.

Bulls 104, Bucks 87  
Michael Jordan scored 30 points, many of them with flashbulbs popping throughout the Bradley Center, as visiting Chicago won its ninth straight.

Jordan played less than 3½ minutes in the fourth quarter, but his consecutive fadeaway jumpers had the fans standing and cheering late in the game. The crowd began to file out after Jordan left the game with 1:05 left and the Bulls ahead 100-83.

Hawks 118, Pistons 95  
Tyrone Corbin and Steve Smith

scored 20 points apiece and host Atlanta had its highest scoring game of the season.

The Hawks scored a season-low 74 points in a loss to Chicago on Friday night. But on Sunday, six Hawks scored in double figures as the team surpassed a previous season-high of 117 points at Toronto on March 17.

Magic 95, Raptors 68  
Horace Grant scored 16 points and Orlando held the hosts to the fewest points in franchise history.

Doug Christie was the only offensive presence for Toronto, scoring 20 points on 6-for-17 shooting. The other four starters combined to shoot 7-for-31.

Cavaliers 97, Hornets 82  
Shawn Kemp had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Derek Anderson scored 16 as Cleveland won at home.

Suns 106, Grizzlies 98  
Cliff Robinson scored 20 points and Kevin Johnson came off the bench to contribute 15 points and 11 assists as Phoenix pulled away late to win at home.

Danny Manning broke a 94-94 tie with an 18-foot jumper with just over two minutes remaining. The Suns did most of the rest of their scoring from the foul line as they closed the game with a 12-4 run.

76ers 99, Celtics 94  
Derrick Coleman scored 13 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter as host Philadelphia snapped a five-game losing streak.

Allen Iverson added 20 points for Philadelphia, which avenged an 18-point loss to the Celtics a week ago.

Timberwolves 104, Kings 96  
Kevin Gamett scored a season-high 32 points with 14 rebounds as Minnesota sent their hosts to their 11th straight loss.

Trail Blazers 99, Warriors 83  
Isaiah Rider had 21 points, including 14 in the third quarter, as Portland pulled away to win on the road.

Clippers 108, Mavericks 86  
Lamond Murray scored 27 points and James Robinson added 24 as host Los Angeles snapped its five-game losing streak.

All five Clippers starters scored in double figures and their defense held Dallas 18 points under what Los Angeles opponents had been averaging.

Lakers 116, Wizards 89  
Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 13 rebounds despite sitting out the fourth quarter as Los Angeles overwhelmed its guests.

The win was the ninth straight at home and 12th in 14 games overall for the Lakers, who trail the Pacific Division-leading Seattle SuperSonics by two games with 11 left in the regular season.

Kobe Bryant added 15 points — all in the second quarter — and Eddie Jones had 13 for the Lakers, who rested all of their starters except Derek Fisher in the fourth quarter.



TENNESSEE WALTZ — Tennessee's Kellie Jolly and Chamique Holdclaw embrace after the Vols beat Louisiana Tech 93-75 to win the women's NCAA basketball crown. (Reuters)

Accusations of  
spitting and racial  
slur at Final Four

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A nasty argument during the Utah-North Carolina NCAA tournament semifinal game resulted in charges, counter-charges and denials from both sides.

Utah's Britton Johnson was accused of calling North Carolina's Makhtar Ndiaye a "nigger," and Ndiaye was accused of spitting on Johnson.

Both sides denied the claims, but agreed there had been a nasty argument during the Utes' 65-59 upset victory that put them in the championship game.

Utah coach Rick Majerus was so sure Johnson didn't use the slur he said he would resign if it turned out to be true.

"I stand by this boy's statement 100 percent," Majerus said. Johnson said that during the

game Ndiaye "slapped me across the face and told me he was going to kick my (expletive deleted)." "The only words that came out of my mouth were, 'I told him I'm 100 pounds lighter than you and I'm kicking your butt,'" Johnson said.

"Then he spit on me." "I never called him the N-word. It's a joke that this is even happening," Johnson said the tape of the game would back him up.

After the game Ndiaye said: "I don't have anything to say about spitting on him. Why don't you ask him about what he said to me? He has no right to use the 'N-word.' He used it more than once. He said it to me the whole game."

Ndiaye added, "I didn't spit on him."

**NCAA Final**  
The NCAA Championship game between Kentucky and Utah was slated to be played at 5:00 this morning Israel time. The game is scheduled to be broadcast on NBC Europe at 21:00 tonight. Pleasant viewing!

Best attack meets worst  
defense in State Cup last-8

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Second from bottom Hapoel Beersheba, who have conceded 47 league goals, face tough opposition when they host second in the table Betar Jerusalem, scorers of 61 league strikes, at the center of today's State Cup soccer quarter-finals.

Beersheba, the current cup holders, will try and put aside their battle against the drop when they take on high-flying Betar. The Jerusalemites will themselves want to avoid going into extra-time, only four days before meeting top of the table Hapoel Tel Aviv, in what is regarded as "the clash of the titans."

Leaders Hapoel Tel Aviv, boosted by Saturday's win in the derby, look promising candidates for a

semi-final spot. They entertain mid-table Hapoel Jerusalem at Bloomfield Stadium — the visitors have had difficulty in finding winning form of late.

Ironi Rishon travel to Kiryat Eliezer, where Maccabi Haifa will attempt to revive their poor season by clinching a spot among the final four. This game will be the first big test for Daniel Brailowsky as caretaker manager before owner Ya'akov Shahar makes his decision regarding next season.

The fourth game will feature fifth place Hapoel Petah Tikva and Ironi Ashdod, who are currently sixth. The matches all kick off at 17:30 and the semi-finalists will be known before the night is out, as all matches will — if needed — be settled on penalties after extra time.

'Match of the season'  
tickets all gone after two days

By ORI LEWIS

The weekend's National League clash between Hapoel Tel Aviv and Betar Jerusalem at Bloomfield is a sellout.

In an unprecedented first, all 20,000 tickets for the "match of the season" at Hapoel's Bloomfield ground were snapped up by yesterday, only two days after they had gone on sale. Israel Radio reported last night that the gate takings have amounted to a healthy NIS 950,000.

The match between the league's two top teams could go a long way towards determining the league title this season. With only three points separating the sides, a win for Hapoel could kill off Betar's hopes. However, a win for Betar would see the two-horse race end on a photo finish.

In other news, Giora Spiegel, recently ousted as manager of Maccabi Haifa, is expected to meet with the bosses of Hapoel Jerusalem today with a view to taking over as manager.

The club's current coach, Yossi Mizrahi, is today expected to announce he will be leaving the club following this afternoon's State Cup quarter-final fixture with Hapoel Tel Aviv.

## SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER — West Ham beat Leeds United 3-0 (halftime 2-0) in last night's only Premier League fixture.  
Scorers for West Ham: John Harrison 8, Samassi Abou 22, Ian Pearce 68. Attendance: 24,107.

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